WEDNESDAY
June 7, 2023

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LARGEST SEIZURE

NCB busts major LSD smuggling syndicate

NEWS » PAGE 8

STRATEGIC MOVE

U.S. security adviser to visit Delhi

NEWS » PAGE 8

HARASSMENT CASE

Delhi Police visit WFI chief's U.P. residence

NEWS » PAGE 8

DEMOCRATIC DIAGNOSIS

A look at the true state of the Indian polity

A conflation between nationalism, Hindutva

EDITORIAL » PAGE 6

THE ULTIMATE TEST

India and Australia face off in WTC Final

SPORT » PAGE 13

CBI gathers evidence; 83 bodies yet to be claimed

Team visits Bahanaga Bazaar and Balasore railway stations, inquires about signalling system; four days after the deadly accident, authorities plan DNA sampling to help relatives identify kin

Devesh K. Pandey
Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR/NEW DELHI

A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team, accompanied by forensic experts, on Tuesday examined the site of the June 2 accident involving the Coromandel Express, the Yeshwantpur-Howrah Express and a freight train at Bahanaga Bazaar in Odisha, which claimed 288 lives and left more than 1,200 injured.

Following a reference from the Railway Ministry and the State government's consent, the CBI re-registered the case on Tuesday.

Sections 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 304 A (causing death by negligence), and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code, besides the associated Railways Act provisions, have been invoked.

Four days after the collision, 83 unidentified bodies are lying unclaimed in different facilities in Odisha's capital. "We are following due medico-legal process such as examining DNA samples," Odisha Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Spot study: CBI officials at the accident site near the Bahanaga Bazaar railway station in Balasore district of Odisha on Tuesday. PTI

Senior official disagrees with panel's finding

CHENNAI
Senior Section Engineer A.K. Mahanta, who was part of the inquiry panel, disagreed with the finding that the point rail at the accident spot was set for the loop line instead of the main line. » PAGE 9

Temple along the track turns place of refuge

BAHANAGA BAZAAR
While some persons tried to give a communal colour to the train accident on social media, the under-construction temple along the tracks played a vital role in providing refuge to the distressed. » PAGE 9

IT/GST paying families out of the ambit of Gruha Lakshmi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Tuesday issued guidelines for the Gruha Lakshmi scheme (monthly financial assistance of ₹2,000 for women), for the benefit of women who are identified as heads of families in Antyodaya, BPL or APL cards of the household.

Among the eligibility criteria is that the woman or her husband should not be paying income tax or filing GST. Action will be taken against those furnishing wrong information, the Government Order warned.

August 15 launch

As announced earlier, one woman per family will be eligible for the scheme, and registration can be done both online and offline between June 15 and July 15. The financial assistance scheme will be rolled out on the Independence Day, August 15.

With this, the Congress government has issued GOs for all five "guarantees", the others being free travel for women (Shakti), Gruha Jyothi (free power up to 200 units), Anna Bhagya (free rice of 10 kg), and Yuva Nidhi (unemployment dole).

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

Dam danger

Latest crisis: The Kakhovka dam in southern Ukraine collapsed on Tuesday. While Russia and Ukraine have blamed each other, thousands of people face displacement. Water supply and Europe's largest nuclear power plant stand to be affected. AP (REPORT ON PAGE 11)

Mother, child burnt alive in Manipur as crisis soars

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Centre airlifted around 1,000 Border Security Force (BSF) personnel to Manipur on Tuesday as violence, arson and killings continued in the crisis-hit State.

More than 20,000 Central armed police force personnel and Army troops have been deployed in Manipur since ethnic violence between the Meitei and the Kuki communities erupted on May 3, claiming more than 100 lives so far.

An eight-year-old tribal boy, who had been injured in a gunfight while in an Assam Rifles relief camp, was then burnt alive in Imphal West on Sunday evening, along with his Meitei mother and another relative, when his ambulance, moving under police protection, was waylaid by a mob and set ablaze.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Limping to recovery: People go through a medical check-up at a camp set up by the Indian Army. ANI

Woman found murdered in flat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 23-year-old private firm employee was found murdered in her flat at Kodihalli in Jeevan Bima Nagar. Police are looking for her friend who is on the run.

The police have formed four special teams to track down the accused, who is from Delhi and is working in Hyderabad. He came to meet the victim, Akanksha Bidyasar, before allegedly smothering her to death.

The murder came to light when Akanksha's flatmate returned from work on Monday evening. She was found lying on the floor with a dupatta tied around her neck.

Based on a complaint, police rushed to the spot and shifted the body. They were informed by the flatmate that a 29-year-old man, Arpith Gurijala, had come to see Akanksha on June 5.

Akanksha and Arpith used to work in Hyderabad. A few months ago, Akanksha shifted to Bengaluru to work in a private firm. She was sharing a flat.

Police suspect that Akanksha was smothered to death with a pillow. An attempt appears to have been made to hang her from the ceiling fan with her dupatta to make it look like suicide. The police have alerted all airports and are have circulated Arpith's photograph.

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A resurgent Zverev is back in the Slam mix, but can he stay afloat in a crowded marketplace?

With his first Major quarterfinal in a year, the German appears close to recapturing his best form; the rise of Alcaraz, Ruud and Rune means the journey will not be easy

TENNIS

N. Sudarshan

For Alexander Zverev, Saturday's thrilling four-set victory over World No. 12 Frances Tiafoe in the French Open third round was important in more ways than one. It was exactly 12 months ago that he had limped off Court Phillipe-Chatrier in tears after having hurt his ankle badly in the semifinal against Rafael Nadal.

The German was No. 3 in the world and was playing the best tennis of his life, having outclassed Carlos Alcaraz in four sets in the quarterfinal and matched Nadal shot for shot until that fateful incident. Trailing 6-7(8), 6-6, his feet got stuck in the clay on a damp and humid evening in Paris, bringing to a shuddering halt a season that had promised much.

After returning to action in Australia at the start of 2023 - where he seemed severely undercooked - it is only now that the 2020 US Open finalist is threatening to look like the player he was a year ago. The gutsy win over Tiafoe marked a joyous anniversary of that gruesome Friday and it was also the first time he had beaten a top-15 opponent since Roland-Garros 2022.

"I'm happy to be through and be in the second week of a Grand Slam," Zverev said in his post-match presser. "It's, for sure, a great thing for me right now. I know what happened last year. It was emotional for me to step on that court for the first time when I played [Alex] Molcan, I'm not going to lie. But now I'm here to play some of the best players in the world, and today was definitely the case."

Fighting back: After a challenging year, Zverev is only now threatening to look like the player that he was. GETTY IMAGES

'1000km away'

Such optimism would have felt misplaced even as recently as a month ago. After his loss to Daniil Medvedev in the round-of-16 at the Rome Masters, Zverev felt he was a "1000km away" from even a decent level of tennis. "I just don't win. I'm out earlier than I had hoped," he told *Sky Deutschland*.

"I have to win and then that will solve [a lot of problems]. I don't know what to say anymore. At the moment this year I'm probably playing the worst tennis since 2015, 2016."

It was worrying that Zverev's despair came on clay, a surface that has been hospitable in the past. Three of his five ATP Masters 1000 titles have come on the dirt (Rome 2017, Madrid 2018 & 2021) and he has reached the quarterfinal or better in four of the five French Open editions starting 2018, a record he has at no other Major.

Like Medvedev, Zverev is a big-serving counter-puncher, and despite being 6'6", he moves as well as anybody and has unusually good return performances. These skills have helped him seamlessly transition from hard courts - his preferred surface - to clay.

This was especially evident last season when he went semifinal-final-semifinal-semifinal across Monte Carlo, Madrid, Rome and Paris. In 2023 though, until the ATP 250 in Geneva the week before Roland-Garros began, he hadn't made a single clay quarterfinal. As points from the previous year kept dropping off, Zverev was in great danger of falling outside the top-50.

Turning the tide

The past fortnight has, however, lifted his spirits. Following the defeat of Tiafoe, Zverev beat Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov - a banana skin of a player - in straight sets on Monday to enter his first Slam quarterfinal since last year's French Open. The 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 scoreline was deceptive at best, for the 26-year-old had to battle back from a break down in the second set and recover after surrendering a 3-0 lead in the third.

"I felt like at 3-0 in the third set I got very unfocused [sic]. I kind of thought the match was over before having it over [sic], and I was not concentrated [sic] anymore, and my serve went missing a little bit," Zverev said in the press conference, explaining why he returned to the court after the win for some serving practice. "So I just wanted to get the feeling of having that back, because it's going to be important."

Zverev will now hope for this creditable run to have a happy ending. In the last-eight clash on Wednesday, he will be up against Argentina's Tomas Martin Etcheverry, a 23-year-old who is in his first Major quarterfinal. On paper, it's a winnable tie and the reward will be a mouth-watering semifinal against Casper Ruud or Holger Rune.

Assuming the draw holds, and Zverev indeed meets Ruud or Rune, he is not expected to be the favourite, for the Scandinavians are two of the best clay-courters around. A semifinal finish will however propel him back into the top-25, and with practically no points to defend after Roland-Garros, the only way for him will be up, with his quest for a maiden Slam back on track.

But the road ahead, like Dominic Thiem is discovering, will be challenging. Towards the end of 2021, when Zverev and Medvedev sparred, once at the Paris Masters and twice at the season-ending ATP Finals, they let out the vibes of a duopoly that could shape world tennis when the Big Three of Roger Federer, Nadal and Novak Djokovic make way.

Zverev had clinched the Tokyo Olympics gold and lifted the ATP Finals for a second time, while Medvedev had famously denied Djokovic the Grand Slam with a brilliant performance in the US Open final. But with the rise of Alcaraz, Ruud and Rune, it is back to being a crowded marketplace.

"If he [Zverev] is in top form, feels good and has confidence, there are only four or five players who can beat him," former German No. 1 Tommy Haas told *Sport Bild* in May. "[But] it is becoming increasingly difficult for him to achieve his major career goal – winning a Grand Slam tournament.

"The next star is here in Alcaraz. And you still have [Stefanos] Tsitsipas, Medvedev, Rune, [Jannik] Sinner, [Lorenzo] Musetti. The competition never sleeps."

Unsuccessful wait: Ukrainian players, in this case Svitolina, distance themselves from a post-match handshake when they play a Russian or Belarusian. REUTERS

I don't support the war or my president: Sabalenka

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Belarus tennis star Aryna Sabalenka condemned her country's role in the war in Ukraine on Tuesday, insisting that she is not a supporter of president Alexander Lukashenko.

"I'm not supporting the war, meaning I don't support Lukashenko right now," the World No. 2 said after reaching the French Open semifinals by defeating Elina Svitolina of Ukraine.

The 25-year-old had come under increasing pressure to distance herself from her close relationship with Lukashenko, a key military ally of Moscow in the ongoing conflict.

"We played a lot of Fed Cups in Belarus. He (Lukashenko) was in our matches taking pictures with us after the match. But nothing bad was happening that time in Belarus, Ukraine or in Russia," she said.

Sabalenka had cancelled two previous press conferences at Roland-Garros, claiming she didn't feel "safe" after facing a barrage of questions over her links to her country's strongman leader.

At the end of Tuesday's match, Svitolina chose not to shake hands with Sabalenka, something that has become a practice now in the sport when a Ukrainian player meets a Russian or Belarusian opponent.

Svitolina was booed by the crowd while Sabalenka stood in vain waiting at the net.

"It just was an instinct like I always do after all my matches," said Sabalenka of her decision to make the traditional approach to the net, saying that she had "big respect" for her opponent.

When asked if Sabalenka had inflamed the situation by staring her down, Svitolina replied: "Yeah, I think so, unfortunately."

"I don't know why she was waiting, because my statements were clear enough about the handshake," added Svitolina.

How well do you know your Roland-Garros?

V.V. Ramanan

As this year's French Open reaches its climactic stages, a quiz on the history of the second Grand Slam of the year and the achievers on the fabled red clay of Roland-Garros.

1. Though the tournament started in 1891 as the 'French Clay-Court Championships' for players from French clubs, in which year did it become 'Open'?

2. Between 1922 and 1932, four Frenchmen claimed 10 singles crowns among them. If two were Rene Lacoste and Jean Borotra, who were the others to make up the famous *Les Quatre Mousquetaires* (The Four Musketeers)?

3. This player, reckoned by many to be the first female superstar in the sport, took home six singles titles in the 1920s. Identify the legend after whom the women's singles trophy and a court where the Slam is played have been named.

4. The stadium where the 'Tournoi de Roland-Garros' takes place came up as a dedication to France winning the Davis Cup in 1927 and is named after a French icon who was not a famous tennis star. What is Roland-Garros' claim to fame?

5. What rare feat connects Robin Soderling (2009) and Novak Djokovic (2015, 2021)?

6. Name the American great who won a record seven women's singles titles over a 13-year period.

7. 2023 marks the 40th anniversary of the last Frenchman winning the singles title. Name this flamboyant player and which modern-day great did he dethrone to hoist the 'La Coupe des Mousquetaires'.

8. Which Spaniard nipped Steffi Graf's pursuit of a second straight calendar Grand Slam by beating the German great in the 1989 final?

9. Staying with 1989, Ivan Lendl finished second-best to a teenager who worked his way to the title by serving underarm and moonballing the three-time champion in the summit clash. Name the American star who remains the youngest man to win a singles Major.

10. Though many may not be able to recall Mary Carillo's feats on the court, her partner while winning the mixed doubles in 1976 was a big fan-favourite in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Who is this genius?

11. The defending women's champion Iga Swiatek is part of an exclusive club that has Rafael Nadal, Bjorn Borg, Gustavo Kuerten, Jan Kodes, Justine Henin, and Margaret Court as its members. What have these seven achieved?

12. If it is Slazenger tennis balls for Wimbledon and Dunlop for the Australian Open, what is it for the French Open?

13. What dubious distinction did Natasha Zvereva achieve while being the 1988 women's singles runner-up?

14. What is the single-biggest contribution of Maison Mellerio dits Meller to the French Open?

15. Which Indian IT major is the Official Digital Innovation Partner for the Slam?

16. If Holger Rune goes on to triumph this year, he will become the second male after which multiple Slam winner still competing professionally to have won both the junior and senior singles titles at Roland-Garros?

17. Of the three show courts in the arena, one is named after Suzanne Lenglen. Name the other two that bear the name of a famous French tennis administrator and a champion female player.

18. Based on what simple logic, why is 'Hawk-Eye', the computer vision system, not used for judging calls at Roland-Garros?

Question 19: Thanks to his record-setting 14 singles crowns, Nadal has become synonymous with the French Open. Apart from two streaks of four consecutive titles, between which years did the Spaniard triumph five consecutive times? AP

Question 20: In which year did Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi lift the French Open doubles trophy for the first time to kickstart their incredible journey at the Majors? FILE PHOTO

THE ANSWERS

1. 1925; 2. Henri Cochet and Jacques Brugnon; 3. Suzanne Lenglen; 4. A 'flying ace'; he was the first man to fly non-stop across the Mediterranean Sea; 5. The only players to have beaten Rafael Nadal at Roland-Garros. The Spaniard's only other loss in the Major came when he withdrew with an injury in the third-round match against Marcel Granollers in 2016; 6. Chris Evert; 7. Yannick Noah and Mats Wilander; 8. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario; 9. Michael Chang; 10. John McEnroe; 11. The only multiple champions to have won all the finals in which they have featured; 12. Wilson. The U.S. Open is also played with Wilson balls; 13. She was 'double-bagelled' by Graf in what remains the shortest Grand Slam final ever; 14. It is the French jewellery house, founded in 1613, that has crafted the trophies given away to the champions; 15. Infosys; 16. Stan Wawrinka; 17. Philippe Chatrier and Simonne-Mathieu; 18. Officials go by the distinct mark left by the light-coloured balls on the red clay; 19. 2010 to 2014; 20. 1999. They would regain the title in 2001.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, TAPASEE Ratna Goutham Ch, R/a Flat No.402, Block-2, Wing-A, ARK Serene County, Channasandra, Kadugodi post, Bengaluru-560067 have changed my name to Tapasee Ratna Goutham Cheerla vide affidavit dt: 05.06.2023 sworn before Notary Veena.J, B'luru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shyamala H B W/o Devaiah S G R/o No 705 Hosabeedi Hinkal Mysore (Kar) affirm that my name has been wrongly registered as S D Shyamala in my husband's Army documents. The correct name is Shyamala H B (DOB 25/06/1978) for all future purposes

I, ROSY Antony W/o 694143–H EX JWO Manjaly Porinchu Anthony have changed my name from Rosy Antony to Rosy Anthony vide affidavit dated 17–05–2023 before XVIII Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore city.

I, SHAKUBAI, spouce of No 1310721 Late Hav K.Murugesan, residing at 236, MIMS North West appartment, Flat No G 004, 6th A Main, HRBR Layout 2nd Block, Bangalore - 560043, have changed my name from Shakubai to V. Sakku Bai. Both names are one and the same and belongs to me & my birthday is 02.06.1951 vide affidavit dtd 02.06.2023, sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, RT Nagar, Bangalore -32

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NR 20753N Lt. Col Ajitha Kumari TY permanent resident of 7A, Cordial Casilda, Kuchuloor, Ulloor P.O, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala-695011 have changed my daughter's name from Ciena Nise K to Ciena Nise vide affidavit dt:05-06-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, NR 20753N Lt. Col Ajitha Kumari TY permanent resident of 7A, Cordial Casilda, Kuchuloor, Ulloor P.O, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala-695011 have changed my daughter's name from Niah Nise Mon to Niah Nise vide affidavit dt : 05-06-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, SUNITHA Nag Ashok, R/at No.57, Aishwarya Lakshmi 2nd Cross, T.R.Colony, Gowribidanur - 561208, have changed my name from Sunitha Nag Ashok to Sunitha Nag Gakka Surendranath vide affidavit dated 03-06-2023 before Notary B.R.Shashikala, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 25th ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE MAYOHALL AT BANGLORE (CCH- 29)
O.S. NO.25411/2022

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001 Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh. G. ...Plaintiff
V/s.
Mr. Mohammed Mubarakulla & Another
...Defendants

Summons to Defendant

1. Mr. Mohammed Mubarakulla
S/o Mr. Mohammed Noorulla Aged About 41 Years, 29 B, Ameenjan Street, Ward No. 03, Anekal Bangalore-562106.
2. Ms. Shahe Salma
D/o Mr. Sultan Moinuddin Aged About 48 Years, 29 B, Ameenjan Street, Ward No. 03, Anekal Bangalore-562106.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs.5,72,108.46/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand One Hundred Eight and Paise Forty Six Only)** apart from future interest of **12.15% p.a.,** in **O.S. No. 25411/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-29,** Before Addl., City Civil Court. Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **05th day of July, 2023** at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 31st day of May, 2023.

By the order of court
Depaty Registrar
City Civil Court
Mayo hall unit
BENGALURU- 560001

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BENGALURU- 560005.

LEGAL NOTICE

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OPMV 1158/2019

Bheeman Kutty and Others
– Petitioners
Kannan, S/o. Periyaswami, 7RCC 206-261, Chamrajpet, Bangalore, Karnataka State
– Respondent No. 2

Please take notice against that the above claim petition filed by the petitioners against you is posted to 19/06/2023. On that date you or your duly authorized person shall appear before the above Tribunal, failing which Tribunal will pronounce order against you. Dated 4.4.2023

Adv. SHIJU KURIAKOSE
Counsel for the Petitioner

IN THE COURT OF THE 28th ADDL., CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-29)
O.S. NO. 25945/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited, Having its Registered office at Land mark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068 Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
And
Sri. Satish GS ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri. Satish GS
S/o. Sri. Shanmugam, Aged about 30 years, No. 8/2, Anjanappa Building, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, Chikkana Layout, Hennur Cross, Near Sharadha School, Bangalore - 560 043

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 5,25,155/- (Rupees Five Lakh Twenty Five Thousand One Hundred Fifty Five Only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 28th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH - 29) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 21/06/2023 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 31/05/2023

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR,
CITY CIVIL COURT,
MAYOHALL UNIT,
BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross,
Victoria Layout,
Bangalore- 560 047

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

e-Procurement Notice

PMGSY-Online-BLGR-03/2023-24

The Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads / bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the districts of Bolangir **for 4(Four)** number of packages with approximated estimated cost totaling to **Rs.34.00 Cr** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with **State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways**. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement dtd. **05.06.2023.**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission : The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with **Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir / E.E / S.E.R.W.Division Concerned**, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement : 04.07.2023 upto 5.00 P.M. For further details please log on to **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in** .

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir

O-199 : OIPR-25118/11/0003/2324

KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
"Samparka Soudha" Survey No. 8, (B.E.P. Premises), Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Telefax: 080-22024000. Fax : 080-22024000.
e-mail: mdkrdcl@gamil.com & cekrdcl@gmail.com

No: KRDCL/IFB/2023-24/01 **Date: 05-06-2023.**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(on e-procurement basis)

1. Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited [KRDCL] invites agencies having experience in respect of following works as per the requirement of Bangalore City Traffic Police on item rate tender basis in two cover system as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in lakhs)	Period of Completion
1	"Printing & Supply of 1MV 133 Notices to Bengaluru City Traffic Police under Bengaluru City Road Safety and Traffic Management Project in Bengaluru"	27.00	0.54	One month (for supply)

2. Interested applicants may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and submit the bids and EMD (electronically) through e-procurement portal only.
3. The calendar of events for various activities is as follows;
   a. The last date and time for submission of queries is **14-06-2023 up to 17:30 Hrs**. The applicants may submit their queries through electronic mail: cekrdcl@gmail.com
   b. The Last date and time for submission of Bids is **19-06-2023 up to 17:30 Hrs.**
   c. Date and time of opening of Technical Bids is **21-06-2023 at 11:00 Hrs**

*** Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through News papers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public procurement portal Website.**

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER KRDCL,
BENGALURU.

DIPR/CP/192/AKAR/2023-24

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 24/MYS/2023 of 02-06-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of standard height gauge at RUB Nos. 29A, 30A, 82A, 121A, 128A (2 Nos each) between Chikjajur-Rayadurg in Assistant Divisional Engineer Chitradurg Sub Division.	Rs. 65,59,701/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 26-06-2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-Ordination
PUB/150/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Mysuru**
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

LOSS OF SALE DEED

I, **Sheethal, W/o Late G. Chandan,** R/a No.2509, 10 Main, D Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore do hereby solemnly affirm and state that, my husband Late G. Chandan is the registered owner of the **property bearing Survey No.691, Plot No.137, Kothakondapalli, Hosur,** Krishnagiri District - 635109, Bearing **Sale Deed Registration No.2642/1991,** registered at Sub-Registrar, Hosur, Krishnagiri District. I further state that, I have lost the said Original Sale Deed while shifting of our house. Inspite all my efforts I could not find the same. I have also sworn before C.K. Anupama, Advocate and Notary about this on 05.06.2023, and have got a police complaint registered bearing no.0589890/2023 and got the FIR registered about the same.

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KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bangalore – 560 001
Ph: 080- 25586550/25586399 Fax: 080-25587020, Email: info@ksicsilk.com

NO. KSIC/IA/AAO/01/2023-24 **Date: 05.06.2023**

Expression of Interest for Appointment of Internal Auditor for the Auditing of Head Office, Units & Showrooms for the year 2023-24 & 2024-25

(Through e-procurement portal only)

Tenders are invited through e-procurement from reputed persons / firms from the Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant firms /Companies for Expression of Interest for the appointment of Internal Auditor for the auditing of Head office, Units and Showrooms for the year 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 as grouped in Annexure-'A' in the tender document.
Tender Documents, details of the Notification, schedule terms & conditions can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date and time for uploading the tender with EMD of **Rs. 20,000/-** through e-Procurement is within **06.07.2023 up to 3.00 P.M.** The Technical bids will be opened on **07.07.2023 at 03.30 P.M.** Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours either personally or on cell No-7338462106 or e-procurement helpdesk- 080-46010000 and 080-22631200

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER(F&A)

DIPR/CP/JA/179/2023-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, BBMP Commercial Complex, Dhanvantri Road, Gandhinagara, Bengaluru- 10.

No.EE/GNR/E-Proc/001/2023-24 Date:06.06.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)- Call-2

The Executive Engineer, Gandhinagara Division invites the tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Establishment of temporary control room for monsoon period (01.06.2023 to 30.09.2023) in Ward No. 94,Gandhinagar Sub Division. **Reserved for SC Category.**	05.00	7500/-
2	Establishment of temporary control room for monsoon period (01.06.2023 to 30.09.2023) in Ward No. 121,Gandhinagar Sub Division. **Reserved for other Category.**	05.00	12500/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK e-Procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** **2)** Last date for submission of Bid document : **15.06.2023 upto 16:00 Hrs. 3)** Date of opening of Technical Bid: **17.06.2023 at 12.30 Hrs.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Gandhinagara Division.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

DISTRICT HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE OFFICE, BALLARI.
Tp: 08392 -276250 e-mail: dhobellari@gmail.com

No.DHO/ACCTS/OUTSOURCEMANPOWER/01/2023-24 **DATE 05.06.2023.**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The following e-Tender is invited from eligible bidders for providing manpower services to Various Hospitals of DH&FWS, Ballari under ZP fund for the year 2023-24 in a two cover bid system the details of the same can be viewed from KPPP e-procurement portal of government of Karnataka vide link https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

THE TENDER FLOATED DETAILS ARE AS SHOWN BELOW:

1. VARIOUS 63 MANPOWER POSTS ON OUT SOURCE BASIS- TENDER AMOUNT : RS.123.11 LAKHS DHFWS/2023-24/SE0036 - Last Date 21.06.2023 @17.00 PM.

Sd/-Dist Health & Family Welfare Officer, Ballari& TIA.
DIPR/Ballari/44/KSMCA/2023-24

ZILLA PANCHAYATH TUMKUR

O/o Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Tumkur-572101.

No: EE/PRED/TmK/ TND No-53/JE/2023-24 **Dated: 02.06.2023**

E-Procurement Tender Notice Two Cover System
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 01/2023-24
Dated: 02.06.2023

The Short Term Tender is inviting through e-procurement on behalf of government of Karnataka by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Tumkur, Under NH 206 Road Widening Relief Fund as per KTTP Act 2000 The Tender Documents can be obtained from the e-procurement Web Site and submitt the details on or before Dated **12.06.2023.** upto 5.00 pm. Further details can be obtained through website at http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/19/KSMCA/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

Public Works Division, Nashik
REQUEST OF PROPOSAL E-NOTICE NO. 12 FOR 2023-24

Sealed online Request for Proposal for Appointment of following work are invited by the Executive Engineer, P.W. Division, Nashik, Trimbak Road, Nashik 422002 (Phone No. 0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra from experienced Project Management Consultant or consultants firm and full filling the qualifying criteria in Request for Proposal tender document.

Tender document download on our website **https://mahatenders.gov.in** Right of rejection of E-tender / cancellation of E-tender reserved by The Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik. *Conditional Tender will not be accepted.

Sr. No	Name of Project	Deposit for Processing fee in Rs.	Cost of tender Form Fee in Rs	Class Of Project Consultancy
1	For Providing Architectural Services for the Construction of various buildings at Sub Center SARTHI, Nashik. 1. Construction Administrative Building for Chatrapati Shahu Maharaj Research Training and Human Development Institute (Sarathi) Sub Center, Nashik 2. Construction of Boys Hostel Building (Capacity 500) in Campus of Sarthi Nashik 3. Construction of Girls Hostel Building (Capacity 500) in Campus of Sarthi Nashik 4. Construction of Study Centre Building (Capacity 300 to 500) in Campus of Sarthi Nashik	239000/-	2,360/- (including GST 18 %) (Non-Refundable)	Experienced Project Management Consultant or Consultants firm and full filling the qualifying criteria in R.F.P

E-tender- Time Table

1	Period of Downloading of bid documents/ Sale start and end dates	Dt. 07.06.2023 at 11.05 am. to Dt. 21.06.2023 at 17.00 p.m.
2	Pre bid meeting Date, Time and Place.	Pre-bid for above Work SR.No.1 as on 14.06.2023 at 13.00 hrs in the office of The Chief Engineer, P.W. Region, Nashik (nashik.ce@mahapwd.gov.in, nashik.se@mahapwd.gov.in, nashik.ee@mahapwd.gov.in)
3	Period of Bid Submission/ Bid Submission Start and End date.	Dt. 07.06.2023 at 11.05 am. to Dt. 21.06.2023 at 17.00 p.m.
4	Bid Opening Period	Dt. 26.06.2023 at 11.00 hrs. (If Possible) (in the office of Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Nashik.)

The detailed Tender Notice can be is available on
1. Web- **www.mahapwd.gov.in** (Only Tender Notice),
2. **https://mahatenders.gov.in**
   (Any changes in the NIT will be Corrigendum's published on above website)
3. Notice Board at office of The Executive Engineer, P. W. Division, Nashik, Bhandkam Bhavan, Trimbak Road, Nashik- 422002.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Public Works Division, Nashik

DGIPR/2023-2024/1234

ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ ಹಾಗೂ ನೋಡಲ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಪದನಿಮಿತ್ತ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು (ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಅಪರಾಧಗಳು) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ

2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಟಿ.ಸಿ. ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಶಾಂತಿನಗರ, ಕೆ.ಹೆಚ್.ರಸ್ತೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: ಕಛೇರಿ-080 22109665, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 080 22220883, 080 22111163
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: rcbbangalore27@gmail.com

ಸಂ: ಕೆಪಿಐಡಿಎಫ್ಇ/ಸಿಎ/ಎಸಿಟಿ/ಸಿಆರ್/15&16/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03-06-2023

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕೆಪಿಐಡಿಎಫ್ಇ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಪರ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು. ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ **Legal Advisor and Counsel** ಹುದ್ದೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಇ-ಕಂಇ 06 ಜಿಆರ್‌ಡಿ 2020, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28-11-2022.

ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕೆಪಿಐಡಿಎಫ್ಇ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಪರ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ ಮಂಜೂರಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಹುದ್ದೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗಾಗಿ ಆಸಕ್ತ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ/ಆಸಕ್ತ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಿಂದ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸುವ ಸಂಭಾವನೆಯ ವಿವರದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸ್ವ-ವಿವರ (Resume) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: **09-06-2023** ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

Post / Designation: Legal Advisor and Counsel (Full time).
Qualification: Basic: LLB, registered at Bar Council of Karnataka. **Preference:** LLM, registered at Bar Council of Karnataka.
Relevant Experience: Basic: Advocate with 15 years Experience at Bar council of High Court Karnataka. **Preference:** Legal Advisor and Counsel to RBI/CBI/ED.
No of post: 1.
Contract / outsource Wage per month (in Rs.) Based on Qualification & Experience: Rs.1,00,000/-.
Age: Not Exceeding 65 Years.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನೋಡಲ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಪದನಿಮಿತ್ತ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು (ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಅಪರಾಧಗಳು), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

DIPR/CP/RO194/AAPL/2023-24

SRI PRASANNA VEERANJANEYA TEMPLE

Hindu Religious Institutions & Charitable Endowments Department
Office of the Executive Officer, Mahalakshmipuram, Bengaluru-560086. Ph: 23491727 Email: spvstemple1973@gmail.com

No.SPVST/C.R.22/2023-24 **Date : 05-06-2023**

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER (through E-procurement portal)

Quotations are invited for various Sevas mentioned hereunder at Sri Prasanna Veeranjaneya Temple, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru City, through E-procurement. Interested Tenderers who are submitting tenders, visit website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for more information.

Sl. No.	Details of Tender	Date of submission of Tender through e-Procurement poral	Date of Opening of Tender through e-Procurement poral
1	Procurement of Groceries and other items required for preparation of Prasada.	05.06.2023 to 26.06.2023, upto 5:00 pm.	28.06.2023 at 11:30 am
2	Supply of different types of flower garlands, tomalas and other flowers for daily decoration of Sri Swami and on Special days as required.		

DIPR/CP/191/SHIRDI SAI/2023-24 **Sd/- Executive Officer**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Health Officer (West), Bhashyam Park, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru

No.: H.O(W)/PR/329/2022-23 **Date: 06.06.2023**

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from the candidates for afresh recruitment on merit cum roster basis through walk-in process on purely contractual basis for a period of 6 months for the following posts in Subedarpalya (Old Ward 66 New Ward 62) Health Center of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	Educational Qualification	Consolidated Pay	No. of Posts
1	Dental Doctors	BDS degree from recognized university registered under Dental Council of India.	Rs. 40,000/- Month	1

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- **Age Limit:** Candidates shall not exceed the age mentioned below:
  a. General Category - 35 Years
  b. 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B - 38 Years
  c. SC, ST, Cat-1 - 40 Years
- The candidates should have minimum knowledge of Kannada administrative language.
- Preference will be given to those who have M.D.S. Master's degree.

Interested Candidates should submit the copy of relevant original documents (SSLC marks card, related educational marks card, registered educational Certificate) to the Office of the Health Officer (P.H) West Zone on or before **07.06.2023** upto **4:00 p.m.**
Place of submission of application: The Health Officer (P.H) West Zone, Shasakara Bhavana Building, Opp. Mantri Mal, Bhashyam Park, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-20.
For more information contact: Phone No.: **9480688569**, Email ID: **howestbbmp@gmail.com**

Sd/- , Health Officer (West)
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

'BMRCL has profit of ₹6 crore; to increase revenue through alternative sources'

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at a meeting with BMRCL officials in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BMRCL is planning metro connectivity to the airport by 2026, says D.K. Shivakumar

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is running on ₹6 crore profit and is planning to increase revenue through alternative sources, said Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar after holding a review meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Shivakumar said of the ₹48 crore annual revenue generated, the BMRCL spent ₹42 crore on various purposes, including payment to staffers. He directed officials to find alternative sources, besides revenue from passengers, to increase profit.

Mr. Shivakumar said for the phase 2 metro project, a proposal was sent to the Union government and BMRCL is awaiting approval for it. For the 3A phase project, a survey was being done between Sarjapur and Hebbal.

He said the line between Baiyappanahalli and K.R. Puram will be completed before July, and the line between Kengeri and Challaghatta will be completed before August or September. He said BMRCL is planning to ready metro connectivity to the airport by 2026.

Extend suburban rail to Mysuru, Kolar, and Gauribidanur: Patil

Suburban rail project should connect prominent places which are located within a periphery of 100 km from Bengaluru, says the Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At present, the project cost is an estimated ₹15,767 crore, which includes laying of tracks for a total distance of 148 km. FILE PHOTO

Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil on Tuesday instructed officials to revise the suburban railway proposal to extend it to Mysuru, Gauribidanur-Hindupura, and Kolar.

He directed the officials to submit the revised proposal while he chaired the review meeting with officials of infrastructure development at Khanija Bhavan.

At present, the project cost is an estimated ₹15,767 crore, which includes laying of tracks for a total distance of 148 km. As per the current plan, the suburban rail will run up to Ramanagara, Chikkabanavara, Doddaballapur, and Whitefield. "Under phase-1, the work is being taken up between Chikkabanavara and Benniganahalli. However, towards the Tumakuru side, this needs to be extended up to Dobbespet. It would facilitate the industrial area located there and this should happen in the first phase," the Minister opined.

"The suburban railway locations under the present project have already merged into the city and have become part of Bengaluru City. Hence, they need to be extended. It has been intended to run suburban trains in a time gap of every 10 minutes," Mr. Patil said.

Suburban rail project should connect prominent places which are located within a periphery of 100 km from Bengaluru. This would ensure easy commute to Bengaluru for people from such cities and help to mitigate migration, he asserted. K-RIDE MD and infrastructure development ACS Gaurav Gupta and higher officials of the railway department were present.

Meanwhile, Mr. Patil also held talks with representatives of BCG (Boston Consultancy Group) which is the knowledge partner of the Industries department about industrial projects that could be considered within the next five years.

Toll staff of Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway say they endure threats and abuse

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the murder of a toll booth employee of the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway, other employees have claimed that they face abuse and threats, and even sustain injuries during assault by uncouth commuters.

Though there is a provision for the safety of the staff and legal options, and even medical care, none comes handy at the time of an untoward incident, said a staff member.

A fortnight ago, Pavan Kumar, 26, in-charge of the Sheshagiri toll plaza, suffered an injury on his left hand while trying to stop a goods vehicle whose driver tried to evade the fee. Since he was not been able to drive his two-wheeler, he asked his junior colleague Manjunath Krishnappa, a toll operator, to pick up and drop him.

Manjunath had joined work two months ago. He witnessed the attack on Sunday night. He told the police that after Pavan's shift, the duo had beer and dinner at a highway dhaba before sitting down for a chat on a tank bund, a few yards away from the toll plaza.

A CCTV camera grab of people gathering at the toll plaza following an attack on an employee on the expressway on the night of June 4.

Two men on a scooter confronted them. One of them flashed a light from the mobile phone on Manjunath's face and asked: "Do you know who I am?"

While Manjunath claimed that he tried to reason with the motorist, the latter alleged that Pavan assaulted him.

Attacked with a club

The accused allegedly attacked him with a club on his neck. Pavan collapsed. Manjunath managed to save Pavan from another attack, but was kicked in the melee. The motorists then sped away on their scooter.

As Pavan was unconscious, Manjunath informed Ramesh, a toll operator, about the attack and told him to get an ambulance immediately.

Ramesh, along with his colleague Somesh, reached the spot. They put Pavan on their scooter and took him to the highway where they put him in the company's ambulance, which took him to BGS hospital.

Manjunath followed the ambulance on his bike. Pavan was admitted to the ICU while he was treated for his injuries in the outpatient ward. He later learnt that Pavan succumbed to his injuries at 3 a.m. on Monday.

Inquiries with the staff revealed that the accused had come from Mysuru. They were waiting behind an SUV for a few minutes. They got irritated over the alleged delay in opening the boom barrier at the toll plaza. They allegedly verbally abused Manoj, who was the toll operator.

Pavan, who was nearby, along with other toll operators, objected.

He is believed to have assaulted one of the occupants of the SUV. The accused allegedly threatened the toll booth staff with dire consequences before leaving the place.

Police have obtained details of the SUV from CCTV cameras, and efforts are on to track down the accused.

High drama at BBMP office as activists stage dharna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Social activists staging a dharna in front of the BBMP Commissioner's office on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Enraged over an alleged threat against an RTI activist, several social activists are staging an indefinite dharna in front of BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath's office.

On June 3, RTI activist Nageswara Rao was allegedly threatened by a revenue inspector asking him to withdraw an RTI application pertaining to a layout which is being developed at Uttarahalli. B.H. Veeresh, RTI activist, claimed that a revenue official from Uttarahalli division issued 'A' Khata for about 93 sites despite the developer failing to secure approval for the formation layout on 5.22 acres of land under Karnataka Country and Town Planning Act, 1961. Mr. Veeresh said this was brought to the notice of the assistant revenue officer of Uttarahalli subdivision and also an online RTI application was filed. The application was handed over to the office of the assistant revenue officer by Mr. Rao on June 3 at 11.30 a.m. At around 3.45 p.m., Mr Rao received a phone call from a revenue inspector identified as Venkatesh.

Mr. Veeresh alleged that over the phone, Mr. Venkatesh threatened Mr. Rao of dire consequences if the application was not withdrawn immediately.

He said when they came to BBMP office during visiting hours to meet Mr. Giri Nath, he was not available in his chamber. Despite alerting him about the situation, Mr. Giri Nath did not arrive to meet activists following which they decided to the stage indefinite sit-in. The dharna will continue until Mr. Giri Nath gives appointment to hear the grievance. A complaint against Mr. Venkatesh was filed at Jayanagar police station.

The activists said they would not relent unless Mr. Giri Nath meets them to listen to their grievances. Mr. Giri Nath said he will meet the protestors on Wednesday. Mr. Giri Nath, talking to *The Hindu,* said: "I will meet them at 10 a.m. on Wednesday and listen to their problem."

Karnataka child rights panel proposes pants or salwar suits as uniform for girl students

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Citing protection and comfort, the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has advocated pants or salwar suits as the uniform for girl students from class I to X in schools.

KSCPCR has submitted a proposal to the Commissioner of the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) asking to 'revisit the rules and regulations of uniforms prescribed in schools, if possible, and make an alteration in the rules of uniforms for overall development of girl students'.

According to the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, educational institutions are free to prescribe uniforms to their students. While government, aided and private schools prescribe shirts, shorts or pants for boys, most private school managements have prescribed skirts for girl students, whereas wearing salwar suits is compulsory in Kendriya Vidyalaya schools, among others. This also differs among government schools.

Recently, the Deputy Director of Department of Women and Child Development of Kalaburagi district submitted a proposal to the KSCPCR saying, "Wearing a skirt is a part of the uniform for all girl students in all government, aided and private schools in Karnataka. However, they feel uncomfortable, while they travel in buses, walking in a crowd, peddling a cycle and playing in the ground, and they have complained to us in this regard. We could see various sexual harassment cases on girls. Therefore, due to the protection and comfortability, girl students are better off wearing pants and salwar suits, instead of skirts. This is the public opinion too."

K. Naganna Gowda, chairman of KSCPCR, submitted the same proposal to the DSEL, and requested necessary action.

Mr. Gowda told *The Hindu*, "A skirt is uncomfortable for girls students while they are sitting, playing, peddling a cycle, and other activities. Deputy Director of Department of Women and Child development of Kalaburagi district has submitted the proposal in this regard. We could see various cases of teenage pregnancy, sexual harassment of girls in the school and outside of it. Therefore, we collected students' opinion on this issue. Most girls expressed an opinion that wearing pants or salwar suits is better than a skirt. Therefore, we submitted the proposal to the DSEL, and are awaiting their response."

The Hindu spoke to some girl students, people working in the field of child rights and school managements on the issue.

A student of an elite private school in Bengaluru said, "We have no problem wearing a skirt in school. We never think it is uncomfortable. While we are playing, we wear sports dress. I don't think wearing a skirt is the only reason for harassment of girls."

A student from BBMP) school said: "Government is providing salwar suits as a uniform to us, and it is very comfortable to wear. As a teenage girl, safety and protection are important factors. It would be better if the government prescribes salwar suits for all girl students."

Child rights activist G. Nagasimha Rao said: "There is imposition of a uniform on children since three to four years from the government. Children have rights, and we must respect their rights. Before imposing any uniform, DSEL and KSCPCR must consult girl students. They know best which uniform is comfortable for them."

Harshakumar N., Chairman, Sadhana Public School, Bengaluru, said, "We adopted salwar suits for girl students from classes V to X in our school. Adulthood and teenage years are very sensitive stages of development for students. Most girl students like to wear comfortable dresses."

Nilam Kaushik among 40 best under-40 MBA professors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nilam Kaushik *(in picture)*, a strategy professor at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), has become the first faculty member from an Indian business/management school to be named among this year's 'Poets and Quants Best 40 under 40 MBA Professors' worldwide. She is also the first woman strategy professor at IIMB.

The award, which has been presented for 11 years now, aims to identify and highlight the achievements of the most promising young professors who teach MBA programmes worldwide. Faculty members from 36 different business schools were featured in this year's list while 16 exceptional women faculty members were honoured.

"Altogether 1,500 nominations were received this year from students, colleagues, administrators, and faculty. Teaching (both quality and quantity as well as teaching-related awards considered) was assigned a 70% weight and research (volume and impact of the faculty's scholarly work taken into account, including citations and major media attention as well as research awards and grants) 30% weight," said a release. Sharing that it was an honour to get the recognition, Ms. Kaushik said: "It is a pleasure teaching in a business school where the best of students from across India gain admission through a very rigorous and competitive process."

SWR cancels 7 trains from Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The South Western Railways (SWR) on Tuesday cancelled seven trains from Bengaluru due to post-rescue restoration work at Bahanaga Bazar station of South Eastern Railway.

The trains scheduled from Bengaluru to various eastern States have been cancelled.

The trains cancelled on Tuesday include, train no. 22887 Howrah-Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru Humsafar Weekly Superfast Express, train no. 12504 Agartala- Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru Humsafar Weekly Superfast Express, and train no. 12863 Howrah-Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru Daily Superfast Express,

The trains cancelled for Wednesday include train no. 12254 Bhagalpur-Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru Anga Weekly Superfast Express journey. Train no. 12864 Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru-Howrah Daily Superfast Express journey commencing on June 8 will be cancelled. Train no. 22888 Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru-Howrah Humsafar Weekly Superfast Express journey commencing on June 8 will be cancelled.

Train no. 12503 Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru-Agartala Humsafar Weekly Superfast Express journey commencing on June 9 will be cancelled.

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Mines & Geology
Directorate of Geology
Engineers' Hostel No-2, 2nd floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
Email: dir-geology@jharkhandmail.gov.in

Annulment Notice
Tender Notice No. - 25/2021-22
e-Auction of Ghatkuri Iron Ore Block-I, West Singhbhum

Tender Notice No.-25/2021-22 was published on dated 08.02.2022 in different News Papers vide PR No.-263316 Mines and Geology (22-23) D. In Consonance with Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (as Amended), Rule 9, sub-rule (10) and Tender Document Clause 8.1 (A) (e) for auction of Ghatkuri Iron Ore Block-I over an area of 149.73Ha in West SinghbhumDistrict, Jharkhand for grant of Mining Leasehas been annulled.

Sd/-
PR 299265 Mines and Geology (23-24)_D **Director Geology**

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby notified that, my client is proposing to purchase the properties described in the schedule below from Mr. M.N. Paramesh S/o. Sri. M. N Nanjundappa aged about 60 years, on the basis of the representation made by the said land owner, among others, that the schedule properties are his self-acquired properties, my client has entered into an Agreement for Sale with the said land owner, subject to the title clearance by the undersigned. Meanwhile, I am instructed to carry out due diligence of the schedule properties and the scrutiny of documents to ascertain marketable title and lawful possession of the said land owner and the same is in progress. As part of the due diligence report, this public notice is issued to receive response, if any, from any persons interested in the schedule properties including any financial institutions, agreement holders, GPA holders or any person claiming any right title, claim, interest or lien over the schedule properties or any portion thereof and/or opposing sale of the schedule properties to my client in any manner whatsoever, are hereby notified to register their objections/claims, if any with supporting authenticated documents, justifying such claims to the under signed within **fifteen days** from the date of publication hereof for scrutiny and consideration.

If objections/claims are not registered with the undersigned as above within the stipulated period, my client will proceed with the completion of the proposed transaction, as if, there are no objections or objections if any, are deemed to have been waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of the lands situate at Tavarekere Village & Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru - 562130 with extent and boundaries as described below:

Sl No.	Survey Number	Extent		Owners	Schedule Boundaries			
		Acre	Guntas		East	West	North	South
1	104/5	-	20	M. N. Paramesh	Sy No. 131/1 belongs to M.N.Paramesh	Road from Tavarekere to Doddaladamara	Remaining land in Sy No. 104 belongs to Hombaiah	Land belongs to M.N.Paramesh
2	105/1	1	35	M. N. Paramesh	Sy No. 131/1 belongs to M.N.Paramesh	Road from Tavarekere to Doddaladamara	Sy No. 104/5 belongs to M.N.Paramesh	Sy No. 105/2 belongs to M.N.Paramesh
3	105/2	-	20	M. N. Paramesh	Land belongs to M.N.Paramesh	Road from Tavarekere to Doddaladamara	Land belongs to M.N. Paramesh	Remaining property of same Sy No 105/2 belongs to T. Chowdaiah
4	131/1	1	5	M. N. Paramesh	Sy No. 131/3 belongs to M.N. Malikarjunaiah	Sy No. 104 & 105	Sy No. 101	Sy No. 106

PRAKASH T HEBBAR, Advocate,
HEBBAR LAW FIRM,
No. SF-17, 2nd Floor, Hameed Shah Complex, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru – 560 002.
e-mail: hebbarlawfirm@gmail.com

Will the WHO's 'pandemic treaty' leave out antimicrobial resistance?

Just three years after the onset of a pandemic, it is understandable why member states negotiating the Pandemic Instrument have focused on preventing pandemics that resemble COVID-19. But not all pandemics in the past have been nor those in the future will be caused by viruses.

Susan Rogers Van Katwyk

In late May, the latest version of the draft Pandemic Instrument, also referred to as the "pandemic treaty," was shared with member states at the World Health Assembly. The text was made available online via Health Policy Watch and it quickly became apparent that all mentions of addressing antimicrobial resistance in the Pandemic Instrument were at risk of removal.

Work on the Pandemic Instrument began in December 2021 after the World Health Assembly agreed to a global process to draft and negotiate an international instrument – under the Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO) – to protect nations and communities from future pandemic emergencies.

Since the beginning of negotiations on the Pandemic Instrument, there have been calls from civil society and leading experts, including the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, to include the so-called "silent" pandemic of antimicrobial resistance in the instrument.

Just three years after the onset of a global pandemic, it is understandable why member states negotiating the Pandemic Instrument have focused on preventing pandemics that resemble COVID-19. But not all pandemics in the past have been caused by viruses and not all pandemics in the future will be caused by viruses. Devastating past pandemics of bacterial diseases have included plague and cholera. The next pandemic could be caused by bacteria or other microbes.

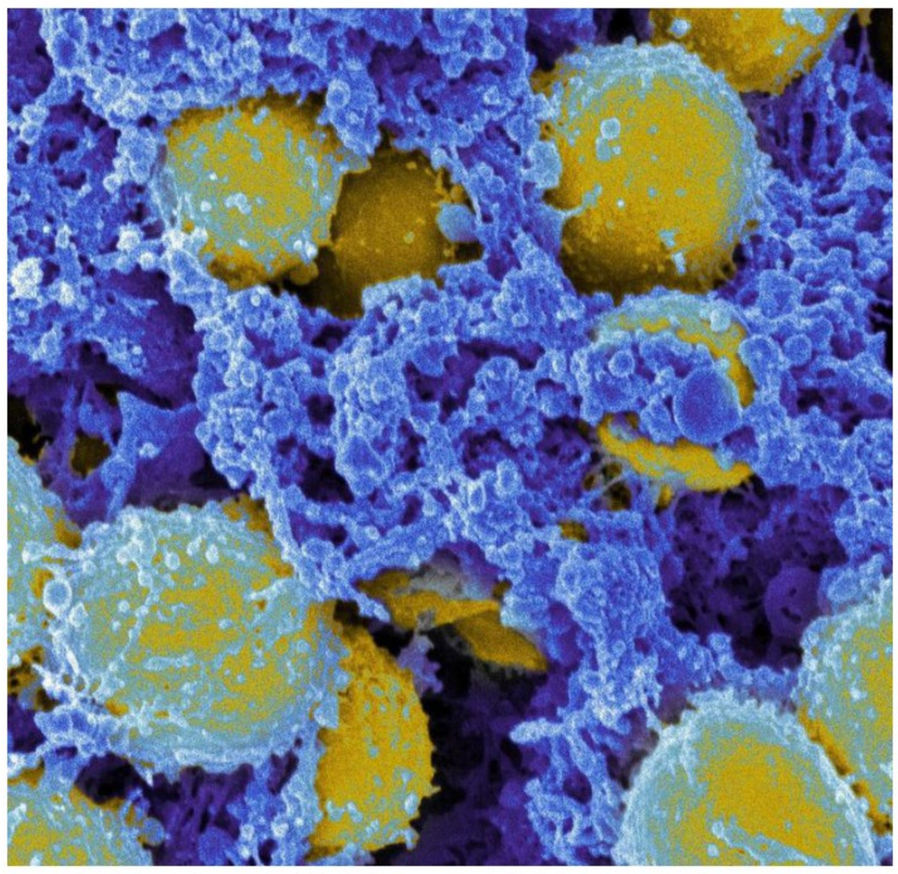
Antimicrobial resistance

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is the process by which infections caused by microbes become resistant to the medicines developed to treat them. Microbes include bacteria, fungi, viruses and parasites. Bacterial infections alone cause one in eight deaths globally.

AMR is fueling the rise of drug-resistant infections, including drug-resistant tuberculosis, drug-resistant pneumonia and drug-resistant Staph infections such as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). These infections are killing and debilitating millions of people annually, and AMR is now a leading cause of death worldwide.

Without knowing what the next pandemic will be, the "pandemic treaty" must plan, prepare and develop effective tools to respond to a wider range of pandemic threats, not solely viruses.

Even if the world faces another viral pandemic, secondary bacterial infections will be a serious issue. During the COVID-19 pandemic for instance, large percentages of those hospitalized with COVID-19 required treatment for secondary bacterial infections.



A scanning electron micrograph of Staphylococcus aureus bacteria. NIAID (CC BY 2.0)

New research from Northwestern University suggests that many of the deaths among hospitalized COVID-19 patients were associated with pneumonia – a secondary bacterial infection that must be treated with antibiotics.

Treating these bacterial infections requires effective antibiotics, and with AMR increasing, effective antibiotics are becoming a scarce resource. Essentially, safeguarding the remaining effective antibiotics we have is critical to responding to any pandemic.

That's why the potential removal of measures that would help mitigate AMR and better safeguard antimicrobial effectiveness is so concerning.

Sections of the text which may be removed include measures to prevent infections (caused by bacteria, viruses and other microbes), such as:The exclusion of these measures would hinder efforts to protect people from future pandemics, and appears to be part of a broader shift to water-down the language in the Pandemic Instrument, making it easier for countries to opt-out of taking recommended actions to prevent future pandemics.

A robust 'pandemic treaty'

Measures to address AMR could be easily included and addressed in the "pandemic treaty."

In September 2022, I was part of a group of civil society and research organizations that specialize in mitigating AMR who were invited to the WHO's Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to provide an analysis on how AMR should be addressed, within the then-draft text.

They outlined that including bacterial pathogens in the definition of "pandemics" was critical. They also identified specific provisions that should be tweaked to track and address both viral and bacterial threats. These included AMR and recommended harmonizing national AMR stewardship rules.

In March 2023, I joined other leading academic researchers and experts from various fields in publishing a special edition of the *Journal of Medicine, Law and Ethics*, outlining why the Pandemic Instrument must address AMR.

The researchers of this special issue argued that the Pandemic Instrument was overly focused on viral threats and ignored AMR and bacterial threats, including the need to manage antibiotics as a common-pool resource and revitalize research and development of novel antimicrobial drugs.

> The researchers argued that the Pandemic Instrument was overly focused on viral threats and ignored AMR and bacterial threats, including the need to manage antibiotics as a common-pool resource.

Next steps

While earlier drafts of the Pandemic Instrument drew on guidance from AMR policy researchers and civil society organizations, after the first round of closed-door negotiations by member states, all of these insertions, are now at risk for removal.

The Pandemic Instrument is the best option to mitigate AMR and safeguard lifesaving antimicrobials to treat secondary infections in pandemics. AMR exceeds the capacity of any single country or sector to solve. Global political action is needed to ensure the international community works together to collectively mitigate AMR and support the conservation, development and equitable distribution of safe and effective antimicrobials.

By missing this opportunity to address AMR and safeguard antimicrobials in the Pandemic Instrument, we severely undermine the broader goals of the instrument: to protect nations and communities from future pandemic emergencies.

It is important going forward that member states recognize the core infrastructural role that antimicrobials play in pandemic response and strengthen, rather than weaken, measures meant to safeguard antimicrobials.

Antimicrobials are an essential resource for responding to pandemic emergencies that must be protected. If governments are serious about pandemic preparedness, they must support bold measures to conserve the effectiveness of antimicrobials within the Pandemic Instrument.

(Susan Rogers Van Katwyk is adjunct professor, School of Global Health, and managing director, AMR Policy Accelerator, York University, Canada. This article is republished from The Conversation.*)*

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> Treating these bacterial infections requires effective antibiotics, and with AMR increasing, effective antibiotics are becoming a scarce resource. Essentially, safeguarding the remaining effective antibiotics we have is critical to responding to any pandemic.

BIG SHOT

A medical worker is seen in a tent storing bottled water at a field hospital in Hammanskraal, South Africa. A cholera outbreak has killed at least 23 people so far near Pretoria. Officials urged residents not to drink from the tap. Cholera has experienced a global resurgence since 2021 after a decade of steady decline, according to the U.N. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

Honey: good as gold

The Hindu Science Desk

Q: What makes honey resistant to spoilage, even at room temperature?

A: Honey is a very dry product, mostly sugar. Any water that comes into contact with it will be drawn in by osmosis. As a result, most bacteria are dehydrated, killing them or rendering them weak and fragile.

Bees also treat the honey with an enzyme that generates free radicals, in effect sterilising the honey with hydrogen peroxide.

In ancient times, honey was sometimes used as a wound dressing, and some modern doctors still use sugar. Experts say the treatment probably works because sugar dries the bed of the wound to promote new tissue growth and dehydrates the bacteria that cause infection. There are commercial wound pastes made of synthetic microscopic water-absorbing beads that do the same thing.

Honey. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

IISc researchers unveil mystery behind Bellandur lake's foam

Untreated sewage entering the lake, heavy rainfall bringing large quantities of run-off from the city, and suspended solids containing certain bacteria are some of the factors highlighted by the team

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A team from the Indian Institute of Science's Centre for Sustainable Technologies, which has been monitoring continuously Bellandur lake's infamous foam for the last four years; has uncovered the reason behind this phenomenon.

"One of the reasons why the foaming has puzzled scientists is because it counter-intuitively increases only after heavy rains, which are supposed to dilute pollutants in the lake that may be causing the foaming," said IISc.

The team highlights three factors that are key to this foaming. The first is untreated sewage that enters the lake. Because the lake is large, the sewage takes 10-15 days to disperse through the lake; during this time, a part of the organic material gets degraded in the absence of oxygen and settles down as sludge.

As more and more sewage flows through the lake,

A file photo of the foam that formed in the Bellandur lake.

surfactants in the sewage do not decompose and instead get loosely attached to the settled sludge, gradually increasing in concentration – in some cases, up to 200 times the original concentration entering the lake. "Imagine adding one full scoop of washing powder into a bucket of water. It will definitely foam given the right conditions," said Chanakya H.N., Chief Research Scientist at Centre for Sustainable Technologies.

The second factor is a heavy rainfall that brings large quantities of run-off from the city into the lake overnight. This high-volume inflow appears to churn up the surfactant-laden sludge, dislodge the accumulated surfactant from the sludge, and bring it back into solution, making it ready to foam. Deep inside the lake itself, there is little foam because air bubbles do not form. However, as the water level in the lake rises due to rains, the excess water containing large concentrations of the surfactants spills over into the lake's outlet to depths as high as 25 feet, trapping air bubbles which turn into foam. "This is an important phenomenon that converts the surfactant-laden water into foam," said Lakshminarayana Rao, Associate Professor at Centre for Sustainable Technologies and one of the authors.

IISc said that in addition to these, the researchers also suggest that suspended solids containing certain bacteria might be responsible for foam formation and stability - the mechanisms involved need to be validated through further experiment.

To study the foam formation, the researchers collected water samples from the lake, analysed various parameters, and recreated a lab model to track the changes in the chemical composition of the surfactants across different regions of the lake as well as at different times of the year. "I had to go to the lake every month over the years to collect water and foam samples and conduct experiments on them," says Reshmi Das, PhD student at CST and first author of the study. The researchers took the help of officials from Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to collect samples.

A recent analysis by the team also suggests that a single type of surfactant commonly used in most household washing powders and shampoos plays a dominant role in driving this foaming. In a typical sewage treatment plant, these surfactants are subject to biodegradation and most of them are removed.

The authors propose that stopping the entry of untreated sewage into the lake is crucial to prevent the build-up of surfactants and sludge, their churning, and the resulting foaming at the outfall. They also suggest that wherever this is not immediately possible, removing the accumulated sludge in the polluted lakes - at least before the rains - as well as proper disposal of it can help address this burning issue.

1,387 tonnes of e-waste piles up in Dept. of Public Instruction

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

With technology becoming a big part of the education sector, the quantum of e-waste is also increasing. There are around 1,387 tonnes of e-waste and lead acid batteries lying in various government schools and office of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) from 224 Education Blocks under 34 Educational districts in the State.

The Department of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT) has decided to dispose the e-waste and has given a tender, worth ₹8.24 crore, to a private firm. Since the DPI introduced computer education in 2000-01, many government schools were equipped with computers, uninterruptible power supply (UPS) systems with lead acid batteries, projectors, printers, multi-function devices, modems, and other equipment.

Most of the equipment were not in working condition and could not be repaired as technology advanced and spares for them were not available. In addition to this, various Information Technology (IT) and electronic equipment were supplied by the government under various schemes. However, many of the IT companies, corporates, and non-government organisations also donated new and used computers and electronic gadgets to various schools.

Top five e-waste materials

Item	Total number	Total weight (in kg)	Total amount (in ₹)
Desktop computers CPU	14,034	1,26,306	56,83,770
Monitors CRT	10,229	1,22,748	12,27,480
Lead acid batteries	28,539	7,13,475	5,77,91,475
Monitors LCD	14,704	44,112	17,64,480
UPS systems	5,339	2,13,560	1,28,13,600

The DSERT has now called for tenders to dispose the ineffectual items and e-Pragathi Recycling Private Ltd. of Tumakuru has bagged the tender. The company has been given six months to dispose the waste.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sumangala V., director of DSERT, said: "Since many years, thousand of tonnes of electronic gadgets and other IT items, which were the part of technology-based learning, were lying in the various government schools and department offices across the State. Most of these items were very old and not functional. Within six months, the waste material will be disposed."

Joseph Hoover, trustee, United Conservation Movement, said that while there is concern about air pollution and plastic waste destroying land and water ecosystems, there is a significant accumulation of e-waste everywhere. "Software parks, electronic industries, and educational institutions have piled up e-waste. Auctioning the huge amount of e-waste in the Department of School Education and Literacy is good initiation. But, the situation could aggravate with the advent of e-vehicles. We fear that lithium batteries and other components could impact the health of an already ailing ecosystem. Unfortunately, neither the private sector nor the government is prepared for the impending challenges," he added.

Anti-communal wing to be formed in Mangaluru to address moral policing

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara said an anti-communal wing will be set up shortly in the Mangaluru Police Commissionerate to look at effectively addressing moral policing, and also other incidents that disturb communal harmony in the region.

Talking to reporters on Tuesday, after reviewing the work of the Mangaluru Police Commissionerate and also the Dakshina Kannada, the Udupi, the Uttara Kannada, and the Chikkamagaluru district police units, Mr. Parameshwara said restoring peace in the coastal region is the topmost priority of the State government.

"The new anti-communal wing will be formed by the Mangaluru Police Commissioner with the available personnel. The primary task of this wing will be to effectively address moral policing incidents. The wing will also look at other incidents that affect peace and harmony," he said.

Asked whether this initiative will be replicated in other police units in Karnataka, Mr. Parameshwara said, "We are trying it out in Mangaluru. It will be set up in Dakshina Kannada and other district police units, if needed."

Mr. Parameshwara said, during meetings as part of preparing the manifesto of the Congress party, representatives of several educational institutions and industry bodies expressed the need for restoring peace and harmony in the region. "People are seeing an environment of fear in the region. Police should effectively address moral policing. If it is not done, it will bring a bad name to all," he said.

Primary, Higher Education Ministers to take a call on scrapping of NEP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar yet again said that the new government is not in a hurry to scrap National Education Policy (NEP) even though the Congress had widely publicised the point in its manifesto in the run-up to the Assembly elections.

The Minister, who held a meeting with educationists on Tuesday, said that the Primary Education and Higher Education departments will take a call on scrapping of the policy after further deliberations.

"We have discussed with lecturers and teachers about the problems and the real-time situations with regard to the policy. We are also collecting comprehensive information about the various doubts we have about NEP within our party. As it is not limited to higher education, the Primary Education Minister and I will hold a meeting together and gather information and then apprise the CM," Mr. Sudhakar said, adding "We cannot blindly put students in a dilemma. We need to explore the topics in depth and then decide."

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 07	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:44
RISE	22:15 SET 08:52
THURSDAY, JUN. 08	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:45
RISE	23:08 SET 09:56
FRIDAY, JUN. 09	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:45
RISE	23:55 SET 10:58

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	27
Mysuru	33	22
Bengaluru	32	23

Bengaluru Today
33ºC Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and humid. Chances of rain and thundershower with gusty winds. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32ºC The weather will be little warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain or thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Three held for cheating firms with fake trip details

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The cybercrime police unearthed a racket and arrested the vendor of a cab aggregator and two of his friends for allegedly cheating Ola and Uber by feeding fake trip details to earn incentives illegally.

Based on a complaint, a team of CCB officials arrested Manoj Kumar and raided his work station in Kalyan Nagar on Tuesday. Based on his information, the police arrested his associates. According to the police, the accused coordinated with taxi drivers, taking details of their trips, and uploading it on the cab aggregator companies' websites to get incentives. Misusing this, he hatched a plan to make money and roped in his associates.

THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

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Special Recruitment Drive for OBC Candidates
Post : Medical Specialist - General Medicine
This is with reference to Advertisement No. 05/23 published for inviting applications for the post of Medical Specialist - General Medicine. The last date for receipt of online application has been extended till 23.06.2023.
How to Apply:
Interested eligible candidates should log on to our website careers.ntpc.co.in or visit careers section at www.ntpc.co.in for viewing the full text of the advertisement and for applying. Only online mode of application will be accepted.
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APPOINTMENT NOTIFICATION
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for recruitment in the departments of B.Com, BBA & BCA.

Designation	Eligibility
PROFESSOR / ASSOC. PROFESSOR	Candidates with Ph.D in core subjects, thorough knowledge about NEP and its implementation, having 15 years of teaching and 10 years of administrative experience preferred.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	Candidates with Ph.D or pursuing Ph.D prefered
FIRST DIVISION ASSISTANT	Degree with Min 5 years of experience in University related work and office Management

1. Fluency in English is mandatory for all the posts
2. Salary is not a constraint for the right candidate.
3. Application with latest colour photo and copies of qualification and experience must be sent on or before 17-06-2023 to: Administrative officer, GSSS IETW, KRS Road, Metagalli, Mysuru - 570 016.

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The online examinations for the next Common Recruitment Process for RRBs (CRP RRBs XII) for recruitment of Group "A"-Officers (Scale-I, II & III) and Group "B"-Office Assistant (Multipurpose) will be conducted by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) tentatively in August and September 2023.
The interviews for recruitment of Group "A"- Officers (Scale-I, II & III) under the same process will be coordinated by the Nodal Regional Rural Banks with the help of NABARD and IBPS in consultation with appropriate authority tentatively in the month of November 2023.
Candidates, intending to apply for CRP RRBs - XII should ensure that they fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria on the stipulated date as specified in the detailed notification issued and hosted on authorised website by IBPS.

Activity	Tentative Dates
Online registration including Edit/Modification of Application & Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges	01.06.2023 to 21.06.2023
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training (PET)*	17.07.2023 to 22.07.2023
Online Examination - Preliminary	August, 2023
Result of Online exam - Preliminary	August / September 2023
Online Examination - Main / Single	September, 2023

*In case it is possible and safe to hold PET
Candidates are advised to regularly keep in touch with the authorised IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates.
Before registering online candidates are advised to read the detailed notification carefully and follow the instructions mentioned therein.
Mumbai
Date: 01.06.2023
Director

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When bicycles were a luxury and avenue trees the norm in Bengaluru

'The city has changed enormously in the last 25 years or so. I am afraid that it has changed without our being conscious of how fast and how far it has gone'

MY CITY, MY TAKE

C.N.R. Rao

Vidhana Soudha, Central College, and high-rise buildings in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Bengaluru (then Bangalore), when I was young, was a simple, quiet place full of trees and little traffic. Most people walked, and a fortunate few had bicycles.

I always enjoyed walking along the Krishnarajendra Road with huge trees. Going from the south of Bangalore (Basavangudi) to the City Market was, therefore, always a pleasure. There were some buses running in Bengaluru, but most people that I knew did not use them.

No fans back then

The city also had wonderful weather. I had not seen a fan at that time. The number of institutions in the city was very small compared to today's scale. There was only one college where one could get a science degree at the University of Mysore. We had a small number of private schools and four government high schools in the city. In such a Bengaluru, I was born nearly 84 years ago. Teaching in high schools was quite good at that time. My interest in science actually got kindled when I was studying at Acharya Patashala, Bangalore. I did not take part in sports seriously. I participated in debates, writing competitions and some literary activities.

Too far, too far

The city has changed enormously in the last 25 years or so. I am afraid that it has changed without our being conscious of how fast and how far it has gone. I am amazed by the changes in the shape and size of Bengaluru. There must have been a planning committee and a master plan, but I do not know whether sufficient attention was paid to the way the city was growing. I get frightened even while going in a car when I see huge 40-storeyed towers just next to the road. I learn that a majority of the flats in the towers are vacant. Bengaluru is probably one of the good examples to demonstrate the ill effects of unplanned urbanization.

Writers everywhere

Sometimes, I get a feeling that the intellectual and romantic atmosphere of Bengaluru of the early days has disappeared. When I was young, I often used to see D.V. Gundappa, Masti Venkatesha Iyengar, Gopalakrishna Adiga and other scholars. T.P. Kailasam was somebody whom I used to see every few days walking with a cigarette tin in his hands. I do not think that it is possible to see poets and artists walking on the streets of this big city any more.

I recall how in the early days, I frequently used to attend lectures by distinguished people. The lectures would be in Central College Union, the Institute of World Culture or the Gokhale Institute of Public Affairs.

It is possible that because of the vast population with wide interests in a very large city, it is difficult to preserve and promote the old culture. I used to enjoy going to music concerts and theatrical performances. I did this even a few years ago, but today it is extremely difficult to reach the place where the performance occurs, specially for old people like me. Recently, my wife wanted to go to her cousin's house to greet her on her birthday. It took more than two hours to reach the place, which is hardly 10 or 12 kilometres from where we live. She just had time to say hello and good bye.

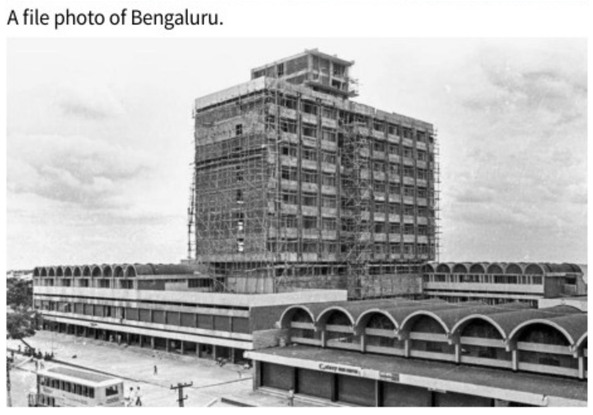
Garden to garbage city

Bengaluru has become notorious in the last few years as a garbage city instead of a garden city. I am not so worried about the garbage. It can be removed. We can even clean the lakes, but we can never shrink Bangalore city or eliminate the concrete jungle. It is high time that the State government and society as a whole recognize the danger signals and determine how the city should develop.

Shopping facilities

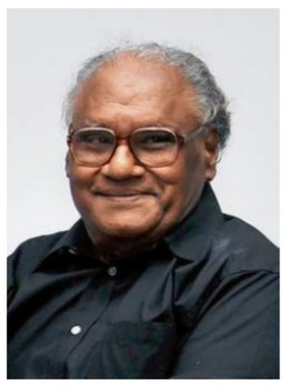
It is unfortunate that as Bengaluru grew, the necessary infrastructure, specially transportation, has not kept pace. The only thing that has happened is that every area in Bengaluru has its own shopping facilities, and one can buy a pin or a refrigerator in one's neighbourhood. This only shows the amazing success of our business people.

A file photo of Bengaluru.



The shopping complex behind the Jayanagar super bazaar in Bengaluru in October 1976. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

The city has ever so many schools and colleges. I do not know the exact numbers. I heard that there are more than 1,000 undergraduate colleges and nearly 60 engineering colleges, but I am afraid that very few of them are of high quality, and some of them are expensive. How come we do not have one undergraduate college comparable to the best in the world? How about an engineering college like MIT?



Eminent scientist C.N.R. Rao PTI

There are thousands of professionals in the city today earning good salaries. They should be concerned about making Bengaluru a cultural centre and a humane society. Unfortunately, I get the feeling that a large majority of young professionals get attracted more by money. Scholarship and science may not be on their list of priorities. No wonder that in the last several years, the research students from Karnataka who have joined my laboratory all come from a rural background.

I have had occasional dreams when I see my ghost visiting Bengaluru 20 or 30 years from now in search of Lal Bagh and the Indian Institute of Science. In my dream, having learnt that the metro runs through the IISc campus, I decided to go to Lal Bagh. I could not see Lal Bagh.

An old attender standing there explains how the gardens frequented by nature-loving citizens do not exist anymore and how powerful people came in their helicopters to take over the gardens to build multi-storeyed towers in the centre (named Garden View).

Then I asked about Bugle Rock where I played when I was young. The old man bent his head down and said that all the rocks were lost to quarrying. There may be one or two small ones left. I start walking away in sadness, only to see crowded streets with people talking to themselves with their hands waving wildly ... I wake up with a start and tell myself, "This can't be true!"

City still has its plusses

Bengaluru still has nice weather. I cannot complain about this, but I would like to see a more friendly and humane city. Whatever I have expressed earlier may seem like a criticism of Bengaluru, but I do not mean it to be so. I do admire Bengaluru.

It is the science capital of India. It is the IT and biotechnology capital of India. It is also the space capital of India. Bengaluru contributes more to the country than it receives. Wherever I go, I am always happy to be back in Bengaluru.

(C.N.R. Rao is a Bengaluru-based scientist who has made immense contributions to the world of science and technology. In 2014, he was conferred the Bharat Ratna award for his research in structural chemistry and solid state of materials.)

Dual use of autos can increase earning of drivers, says study

When auto drivers were asked by researchers if they made dual utilisation trips in a day, 72% of them said that they did

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The dual utilisation of autorickshaws - to carry passengers and freight - could increase the earning of auto drivers by 15% and cut logistical costs for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), says a new research study conducted by the World Resources Institute (WRI) India in five cities of the country. The research has also said that the optimised use of passenger auto rickshaws for cargo purposes could potentially reduce CO2 emissions by 51.5% on every trip.

For the paper titled 'Assessing the Viability of Using Autorickshaws for Urban Freight Delivery in India,' WRI sampled a total of 1,388 respondents which included 608 supply-side three-wheeler autorickshaw drivers, 338 demand-side MSMEs, and 442 retailers, dealers, distributors in Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Lucknow and Pune.

When auto drivers were asked by the researchers if they made dual utilisation trips in a day, 72% of them said that they did. The percentage of drivers who said that they did dual-use trips was highest in Bengaluru (78%), followed by 76% in Hyderabad, 75% in Delhi, 72% in Pune and 55% in Lucknow.

"Potential reasons (for relatively low share in Lucknow) could be the predominance of other affordable micro-mobility options, like the ubiquitous hand-drawn carts and cycles, used for transporting goods over short distances," the report which was released on Friday said.

States must consider enabling hybrid use of autos instead of having separate permits for cargo and passenger autos, says the report.

While a greater share (57%) of the surveyed drivers said that their net operational time was around 9-12 hours, their average daily utilisation of auto rickshaws was lower with two to four hours of downtime, the report said. Hence, it suggested that this downtime, essentially non peak hours, could be put to alternate use to increase the driver's income. The report said that based on limited surveys, it was estimated that with dual utilisation, drivers' income could be increased in the range of 15% and 60%.

With the daily commercial deliveries in the country expected to grow 40% annually by 2025 (according to GLG Insights 2021), the report highlights the need to devise a framework which ensures that delivery of goods in every load range is essential.

"Two-wheelers are agile but not suitable for carrying heavy freight. Meanwhile, three- and four-wheeled cargo vehicles, with a carrying capacity of 400 to 700 kg, end up getting underutilised as they are used to carry smaller payloads. Three-wheeler passenger autorickshaws can step in to fill this gap. They fare better than other micro-mobility modes in carrying heavier freight, as they have the flexibility and maneuverability of a two-wheeler that enables navigating crowded narrow streets and are designed to carry payloads of up to 300 kg," the report said.

The report suggests that states need to consider enabling hybrid usage of autorickshaws instead of the current method where three-wheeler cargo vehicles operate under goods carriage permits and passenger autos under contract carriage permits.

Rohan Rao, Program Manager, Electric Mobility, WRI India and the lead author of the paper, said, "This working paper lays the groundwork to enhance awareness on the concept of dual use of autorickshaws and provides solutions for its implementation. However, there is room for further study, especially regarding safety parameters, the design of autorickshaws, and exploring other micro mobility options to facilitate goods transportation."

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 7, 1973

Bangalore Kerosene Supply Scheme Runs into Trouble

BANGALORE, June 6: The new arrangement for the sale of kerosene in the vicinity of police stations in Bangalore ran into some unforeseen difficulties on the opening day.

The Police Commissioner, Mr. K.G. Ramanna, described it as a unilateral announcement by the Directorate.

He added, "There is hardly any room in the premises of the police station." He felt that kerosene probably would be sold "near" the police stations.

Speedy Way to Pay Rural Workers

BANGALORE, June 6: Motorcycles have now been pressed into service in Belgaum District for facilitating officials in arranging quick payment of wages to the labourers engaged in various scarcity relief works in rural areas. Mr. K.R. Ramachandran, Divisional Commissioner, Belgaum, handed over 10 motorcycles to assistant agricultural officers in the district at a function held at Belgaum. The cost of these vehicles is approximately Rs. 50,000.

Bypolls for 3 Council seats on June 30

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Election Commission of India has issued a notification for the conduct of the byelections to the three casual vacancies in the Legislative Council from the Legislative Assembly constituency on June 30.

The three vacancies were created following the resignations of Baburao Chinchansur, R. Shankar and Laxman Savadi. All three resigned from the Council and contested the Legislative Assembly elections held last month.

While Mr. Chinchansur and Mr. Shankar lost the elections, Mr. Savadi won on the Congress ticket.

The notification said the last date for filing nomination is June 20, scrutiny of nominations will be done on June 21, and the last day for withdrawal is June 23.

The polling and counting of votes will be done on the same day (June 30), it said.

The term of the seat vacated by Mr. Chinchansur ends on June 17, 2024, while the term of the seat vacated by Mr. Shankar ends on June 30, 2026. The term of the seat vacated by Mr. Savadi ends on June 14, 2028.

Congress sources said there were more than a dozen aspirants, including the former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, for the three vacancies in the Legislative Council.

Bommai cautions Congress govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has cautioned the Congress government that it will have to pay the price if it thinks that political power can be misused to suppress political opponents.

Referring to some Ministers warning BJP ideologues of putting them into jail if they continue to speak against them, he said, "Such a situation of the Ministers trying to intimidate political opponents within 15 days of coming to power reminds of the Emergency," Mr. Bommai said in a tweet on Tuesday.

Amid speculation of pact for LS polls, HDD asks who has not had ties with BJP

Several parties in different States have joined hands with the BJP directly or indirectly, said the Janata Dal (Secular) supremo

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Show me one party in the country that has done politics without establishing some kind of relationship with the BJP," Janata Dal (Secular) supremo and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda asked on Tuesday.

The veteran leader's response had been sought amid speculation that the JD(S) is likely to tie up with the BJP for the Lok Sabha polls, and the speculation gathered steam after the visit of the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy to Delhi where he is speculated to have met with BJP leaders.

'What is there to hide?'

"Several parties in different States have joined hands with the BJP directly or indirectly. Several leaders of the Congress are involved with the BJP and this can be seen even in Karnataka. What is there to hide?" he asked reporters here in response to a question on whether there were chances of a BJP-JD (S) pre-poll alliance for the next year's Lok Sabha elections.

Gearing up: Janata Dal (Secular) leaders H.D. Deve Gowda and H.D. Kumaraswamy addressing the media in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

His response was also sought on the efforts being made to form an anti-BJP alliance by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. "I will answer questions on JD(S)-BJP tie-up after you show me one party that has not done politics without a relationship with the BJP," said the former Primer Minister. It is also a fact that Congress leaders, to further their political careers, have come to an understanding with the BJP, he claimed.

How many seats

Mr. Gowda said a decision as to how many seats would the party be contesting in the Lok Sabha elections and the constituencies would be taken on the party's platform. About his contest in the 2024 elections, he said, "The party will decide whether I will contest the next Lok Sabha elections or not... We have lost elections but there is no need to be depressed. In the past, we, including me, have won and lost several elections. But we have emerged like the phoenix. Just because we have lost, I cannot be sitting at home. There are several elections ahead and we have to prepare ourselves."

Later, addressing party leaders from five districts during a meeting to review the party's loss in the Assembly elections, the former Prime Minister said the party had to be strengthened in areas where it had a base and expand it to other areas. "On priority, youngsters have to be given more responsibility along with seniors in the party."

Counter reports on ticket, DVS urges BJP leadership

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking exception to reports in a section of the media that 13 incumbent MPs of the BJP may not get the ticket this time, the former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda has urged the party's State and central leadership to intervene and counter such reports.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, a visibly upset Mr. Gowda wondered, "How do these media persons know that the party is not giving the ticket to 13 MPs? Are they party spokespersons?"

Alleging that such reports "crush the morale of incumbent MPs" and come in the way of them discharging their duties effectively for the remaining term of one year, he said the onus was now on the party leadership to intervene and protect its MPs. "They must counter these reports and allow us to discharge our duties," he said.

D.V. Sadananda Gowda

A section of the media had reported that 13 incumbent MPs of the BJP, including Mr. Gowda, would not get the party ticket to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Mr. Gowda alleged that such reports were a part of the conspiracy to suppress the BJP which had lost the Assembly polls.

The former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said the Congress through its guarantees was misleading the public, and that the JD(S) had to fight against it. "The party has seen several defeats and it has come back stronger," he said.

He listed his achievements as Chief Minister, Union Minister, and MP and said he never tried to publicise them when he was holding key positions as he was not keen on getting publicity and that his focus was on service.

Stating that the BJP's performance in the Karnataka Assembly elections was worse than expected, he said the party leadership should now come out with a political strategy to instil confidence among party workers and to bring the party back to power.

Free bus travel: Application process huge entry barrier for women, say activists

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

After the Karnataka government issued a Government Order (GO) saying women will need to apply for a smart card on Seva Sindhu portal to avail of the free bus pass scheme, activists say it is a huge entry barrier for women.

On Monday, guidelines were issued by the government for the Shakti scheme, which will be the first of the five pre-poll guarantees given by the Congress to be implemented on June 11. The scheme will allow free travel for women in buses run by the State road transport corporations.

According to the GO, the government intends to issue 'Shakti Smart Card' after receiving applications from women, including students, through the portal.

It has asked the RTCs to accept any identity card issued by the Central or State government that carries the photograph and address of the beneficiary, and till then issue 'zero ticket' (free ticket). The government has directed the issuance of smart cards to be completed within three months.

Vinay K. Sreenivasa, a member of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike, said, "The scheme is radical, and has transformatory potential. But, guidelines say all women bus users will need to apply on the Seva Sindhu portal for a smart card... This scheme is supposed to be especially for those who cannot afford to travel by bus and those who face restrictions at home. It's not easy for a single woman, from a BPL household, in a village to apply on Seva Sindhu portal. Can the government even issue two to three crore cards in three months?"

Citing a similar scheme in Delhi, Mr. Sreenivasa said, "In Delhi, they track numbers by issuing a ticket of a different colour. Why can't we just do that?"

Activist Tara Krishnaswamy, added, "As it stands, the guidelines are very likely to exclude those who are most in need of free bus service – poor, landless, rural, tribal, and marginalised sections who are already left out of mainstream development. Given that crores of girls and women will still be eligible, the extreme administrative overheads and checks per trip needed to eliminate a few is very suboptimal policy."

How to apply

- The scheme will allow free travel for women in State–run road transport corporations starting June 11
- Women passengers should apply for a 'Shakti Smart Card' on Seva Sindhu portal
- Till the smart card is issued, women can travel using any identity card issued by the government that carries the photo and address of the beneficiary while RTCs will issue a 'zero ticket' (free ticket)
- RTCs will issue the smart cards within three months
- Free travel is restricted within the State for women who are domicile of Karnataka
- Women will be able to travel in general and express services operated by RTCs

Tenants eligible to get up to 200 units of free power: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after the State government came out with guidelines for executing the Gruha Jyothi scheme, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday reiterated that all families residing in rental houses were also eligible to avail themselves of free power supply up to 200 units.

Mr. Siddaramaiah told reporters that tenants were also eligible to avail themselves of the scheme under which 200 units of free power would be provided to all domestic consumers in the State from July 1.

The guidelines issued on Monday did not mention the eligibility of families residing in rental properties. "We will provide free power (up to 200 units) to those living in rented accommodation as well. Whoever is using less than 200 units a month need not pay the electricity bill," he said. However, the scheme was not applicable for commercial connections, he said.

The guidelines stated that along with the average from the previous year, the government would provide 10% additional units to consumers. Those consuming more than the average would get the net bill as the difference. Those exceeding the 200 units limit will have to pay the entire power bill.

This means that if a consumer who has an average monthly limit of 100 units in the previous year, uses around 150 units of power in a month, then he/she would have to pay the bill for the additional 50 units. The Energy Department has maintained that the caveat was introduced to ensure that consumers use electricity efficiently.

Consumers who want to enjoy the benefit have to apply through the Seva Sindhu portal and each Customer ID must compulsorily be linked with Aadhaar.

Mr. Siddaramaiah was speaking to reporters on the Vidhana Soudha premises after paying floral tributes to the former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs on his 41st death anniversary.

He planted a sapling on the Vidhana Soudha premises in memory of Urs. He said the sapling was from Madagascar and stays evergreen.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah paying floral tribute to the former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

'Doctors must strictly comply with law on reporting POCSO offences'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Reporting of offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, particularly by doctors, requires strict compliance, failing which the offender committing the offence arising out of a consensual sexual activity or rape or sexual abuse on a child will get away from the clutches of law, said the High Court of Karnataka.

"Responsibility to report is cast on all stakeholders. Therefore, it is necessary for the State to direct strict compliance with Section 19 [reporting of offences], particularly by doctors, who indulge in medical termination of pregnancy of minors in extenuating circumstances," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while refusing to quash the chargesheet filed against medical practitioner, Chandrashekhar T.B. of Chikkamagaluru, for failure to report an offence under the POCSO Act.

The judge made these observations while refusing to quash the chargesheet filed against medical practitioner for failure to report an offence under the POCSO Act

Dr. Chandrashekar had treated a girl whose age was recorded in hospital documents as 18 years and three months. She had been admitted to the hospital with severe bleeding following an abortion caused by the consumption of tablet for termination of pregnancy.

However, a complaint under the POCSO Act was registered about two months after her treatment in the petitioner's hospital, and it was disclosed in the complaint that the girl was aged only around 12 years and 11 months when she was forced to have sexual intercourse by a 21-year-old boyfriend, who had administered her a tablet to terminate pregnancy, resulting in heavy bleeding.

The court refused to accept the contention of the doctor that he had no reason to disbelieve the statement made by the persons who brought her to hospital, that she is 18 years and three months. It is highly improbable that the petitioner, with 35 years of experience as a gynaecologist, at the very look of the patient did not get to know that the victim was of tender age, the court observed while pointing that petitioner's claim on ignorance of victim's age has to be tested in the trial.

New bus service

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The KSRTC will start Ambaari Utsav service from Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) here to Kundapur from Thursday.

According to a release, the bus will leave KIA at 9 p.m. and reach Kundapur at 6.30 a.m. the next day. In the return journey, it will leave Kundapur at 8.30 p.m. and reach KIA at 6 a.m.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

16th Death Anniversary

U. SARAVANAN B.E
25.09.1984 - 07.06.2007
Fondly Remembered by Loved Ones

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e-bids are invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under two cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

Sl. No.	Name of work and Tender No.	Bid Security	Prebid meeting Date	e-Bid Submission closing Date	e-Bid Opening Date
1.	Strengthening of the existing sewer system in Alandur, Area XII (Fall 1) covering Depot 160,161(P),163(P) and 165(P) in Area XII, Alandur CNT/SEW/NCB/AMRUT- 2.0&Singara Chennai 2.0/006A/2023-24	Rs.12.61 lakhs	20.06.2023 at 11.30 a.m.	11.07.2023 upto 3.00 p.m.	12.07.2023 after 3.30 p.m.
2.	EMD by online transfer only through NIC Portal. The tenderer shall submit scanned copy of online transaction statement towards EMD as part of Tender document.				
3.	Availability of tender documents and e-bid submission is permitted through tender portal / website: www.tntenders.gov.in For all other details refer tender schedule in the website from 08.06.2023.				

DIPR/2865/Tender/2023
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"
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Lr.No.PDS.3/18/2755/2023-25 Date: 06.06.2023

TENDER NOTICE

APSCSCL desires to call separate tenders for appointment of the stage I transport contractors in all Twenty Six (26) Districts of AP for transportation of food grains from the designated buffer godowns to the MLS Points/ other godowns within or outside the District for the period 2023-25 i.e., upto 31.03.2025 under Public Distribution System.

Applications are invited from the interested transport contractors for registration as tenderers to participate in the e-reverse auction to be conducted through NCDEX e- markets limited (neml) platform.

All the interested transport contractors in All Over India may visit **www.apscscl.in** & **www.neml.in** to view and download tender documents at free of cost.

Interested bidders need to register in portal as vendor i.e in **NCDEX e Markets Limited Contact: Tel: 9962059599** or **9032429420** or **9885549722** and **Email: askus@neml.in.**

Last date for registration and completion of formalities for the e-auction shall be **up to 17.06.2023 upto 5.00 p.m** and the tentative date of online e-reverse auction through **NCDEX e-MARKETS LIMITED (NEML)** platform would be **21.06.2023 & 22.06.2023.**

Sd/- VC and Managing Director, APSCSCL

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER
Rushikulya, Bahuda, Vansadhara & Nagabali Basin, Berhampur.
DIST-GANJAM, ODISHA
Tel No: 0680-2281144, e-Mail : ce_rvn@yahoo.co.in
Government of Odisha

"e" Procurement Notice No. CE&BM-RBVN-02/2023-24
Bid Identification No. CE&BM-RBVN(GID)-01/2023-24

Online tenders are invited for EPC Contract for Construction of Barrage across river Mahendratanaya of State of Odisha from prospective bidders.

1.	Name of Work	:	Construction of Barrage across river Mahendratanaya near village Nuagaon in Gajapati District.
2.	Approximate Value of Work put to Tender	:	Rs.64,20,00,000/-
2.	Period of completion	:	Eighteen (18) calendar months including rainy season.
3.	Date & time of availability of Bid document in the portal.	:	Dt. 08.06.2023 from 10.00 AM to Dt. 07.07.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.
4.	Last date / Time for receipt of Bids in the portal	:	Dt. 07.07.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.
5.	Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid.	:	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, RBVN Basin, Courtpeta Square, Berhampur, Dist - Ganjam, Odisha Pin-760004.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"** .

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, RBVN Basin, Berhampur

A-214: OIPR-32072/11/0002/2324

Hidden Harvest: Foraging for food in Bengaluru's parks and empty plots

Challenging the misconception of rural exclusivity, women from lower socio-economic backgrounds forage in accessible parts of the city

Swathi Nair

Rare greens
Bengalureans who lack access to various medicinal and culinary greens in city markets have found a unique solution by placing orders with women vegetable vendors at specific markets, such as the one near the Banashankari bus stop. Whether it is to make hair oil, enhance brain power or revive nostalgic dishes, customers communicate their specific requirements to the women vendors at these markets.
The vendors, in turn, embark on foraging expeditions either within the city or during their visits to their villages, diligently gathering the requested greens and then selling them to their customers in the city. This system ensures the availability of sought-after greens that may otherwise be scarce, as the women vendors leverage their networks and personal connections to fulfil the diverse culinary and medicinal needs of Bengalureans.

In the tranquil Lalbagh garden of Bengaluru, a serene morning unfolds around 9 am. Gowramma diligently tends to her routine task of watering the plants but goes the extra mile. While removing unwanted grass, she meticulously selects a few sprigs, sprinkles them with water, and carefully stores them in a plastic cover. "These are for my dinner when I return home," shares the 48-year-old, who has dedicated 14 years of her life to maintaining this park. Everyday she is there from 8am to 5pm.

Many other ground staff engage in foraging within the garden to gather whatever little they can find for their home-cooked curries. Gowramma says, "We used to discover various plant varieties earlier, but with the unpredictable rains, it's not the same anymore."

The Lalbagh garden, situated on 240 acres of land, boasts an assortment of green leaves, locally known as "soppu." Within its lush boundaries, one can find *dodallagiri soppu, goni soppu, hulli soppu, neeruhongane soppu,* and *hoovuhongane soppu* – all coveted by the diligent ground staff for their personal use. These plants usually grow in the wild on farmlands and their leaves are part of several traditional foods such as the *bas saaru, massoppu* and mixed vegetable *palya*.

Not only the park's dedicated staff, but even the regular morning walkers from the neighbouring areas seize the chance to forage for their food. One such walker, Govindaraju GV, 59, shares, "I gather whatever little I can find to take it home for curries. The greens are really good for children".

Sharing a similar sentiment, another park jogger, Balu N, 60, adds, "You won't find such diverse *soppu* varieties in the market. The younger generation at home is unaware of these unique *soppu* types and the traditional recipes associated with them."

Foraging In Bengaluru

Foraging practice studied in: Ulsoor, Siddhapura, Banashankari and Talaghattapura

97%
OF FORAGERS IN BENGALURU ARE WOMEN

Belonging to **socially (90%)** and **economically (81%)** disadvantaged groups

76
species are foraged for food (76%), medicine (26%), and cultural practices (18%)

Foraging occurred in **unused land (32%)**, **parks (32%)**, **farmlands (12%)**, **native villages (12%)**, **nearby woodlands (9%)** and **home gardens (3%)**.

Source: Azim Premji University

Additionally, Chikkamma and Gowramma purposefully forage certain plants for their medicinal benefits. Chikkamma explains, "*Dagalagiri soppu* is effective for insulin maintenance, while *Kirunelli* is known to support liver health."

A recent study by Azim Premji University reveals that foraging is prevalent in Bengaluru. The research paper titled, "Patterns of urban foraging in Bengaluru city", sheds light on foraging practices in areas including Ulsoor, Siddhapura, Banashankari and Talaghattapura, highlighting its occurrence even in a metropolis.

"We often see people foraging in parks, lakes, and empty plots, especially in wetlands. This holds true not just for Bengaluru, but also for other Indian cities such as Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi," explains ecologist Harini Nagendra, one of the researchers of the study.

She emphasises the disconnect between policymakers and ground reality, stating, "There is a misconception among city officials that foraging is confined to rural areas, but our research demonstrates otherwise," adds the co-author of the book, *Chasing Soppu*.

Now you see me, now you don't A lot of the greens such as dodallagiri *soppu* (left) in Lalbagh are seasonal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds, particularly those affected by urbanisation, engage in foraging. Creating accessible green spaces in urban environments is therefore crucial for their well-being.

Interestingly, following the pandemic, there has been a renewed interest in foraging among the urban elite who are now attending workshops and engaging in conversations about foraging in the city.

Chef Johnson Ebenezer curates a distinctive dining experience in the city at his restaurant, Farmlore, where he crafts dishes using ingredients that are cultivated or foraged directly from the premises.

He explains, "Our vast 30-acre land gives us an abundance of herbs and leaves that is synonymous to the geography. Their variety fluctuates with the changing seasons, with even greater diversity during the monsoon. Among the prominent ones are *huli soppu* (sour greens), wood sorrels (clover leaf), *brahmi*, pennywort, *tulsi*, purslane, amaranth, nasturtium, and *gongura*."

"Through foraging, they aim to reclaim common spaces, increase nutritional diversity, and foster a deeper connection with nature," says Suresh Kumar G, residing in Sarjapur, who has fully embraced foraging on his two-acre farm in Sarjapur.

Alongside his cultivated crops, he allows indigenous wild vegetation to thrive, attracting people from the surrounding areas to gather food and learn how to cook with them. The land showcases an array of plant species, including amaranthus, purslane, *moringa*, spinach, *gongura*, mustard, hyacinth beans, winged beans, sword beans, turkey berries, ivy gourd, bottle gourd, and pumpkin.

Pollution stands as one of the foremost threats to foraging practices. Garbage inflow and the presence of plastic and other waste in lakes and wetlands deter foragers. Also, the prioritisation of ornamental plants in public spaces exacerbates the issue, diminishing the availability of forageable species in the city.

To ensure continuation of foraging practices in urban spaces, the researchers suggest an inclusive approach. Harini proposed that local administrators should consider organising foraging classes in Lalbagh and Cubbon Park.

CITYBEATS

Cheers and a dance

ON JUNE 10, 8PM ONWARDS
Indulge Presents Bombay Talkies featuring DJ Hussain. Besides music you can treat yourself to cocktails as you listen to some good old Bollywood beats.
DJ Hussain will perform at Indulge by House of Commons, JP Nagar.

A culinary experience

JUNE 8 TO 11 AT ITC GARDENIA
ITC Hotels is hosting the Dehlnavi trail, with a multi-city culinary tour. The four-day food extravaganza includes chaats, kebabs, fish fry, purani Dilli fried chicken, pulav and more in vegetarian and non vegetarian options as well as a wide range of desserts like barfi ki handi and kheer. *Call 7305874139 or 22119898 to reserve a table.*

Panel discussion

ON JUNE 10, 11.30AM AT BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
As part of their silver Jubilee celebrations, Prakriti Foundation in association with Bangalore International Centre and Juggernaut, is organising a panel discussion. The topic will be 'Memories of a Comrade', which will be based on the recently published book *My Life As a Comrade* with the authors – KK Shailaja and Manju Sara Rajan – with Indulekha Aravind.

Talk around a book

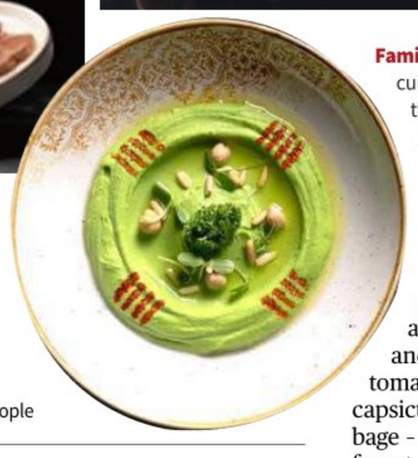
ON JUNE 9, 6PM AT ATTA GALATTA
Atta Galatta, in collaboration with Karadi Tales, launches the book *Paro of the Sundarbans* by Vaishnavi Giri and Pallavi Jain.

The book is about Paro, a little mudskipper, trying to find her way home through the vast Sundarbans. Will she get back to her family safe? The launch will be followed by a reading and an interaction with the author and illustrator of the book. It is open to children aged six years and above and adults.

EATING OUT

A taste of Turkish essence

Praveen Sudevan



Familiar, yet new Turkish cuisine is comfortable on the Indian palate SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Öz by Kebapçi
Address: UB City, Level 2, Concorde, 1, Vittal Mallya Rd, KG Halli, D' Souza Layout, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru
Timings: 12:30 pm to 12:30 am
Call: 7090677771
Ambience: Fine-dining
Wallet factor: ₹1,800 for two people

Opulence. That is the word that springs to mind as you enter Öz by Kebapçi, situated on the second floor of UB City Mall. A three-foot ornate fountain welcomes you into the reception. Inside, you find more elements of elegant extravagance, like the kaleidoscopic Oriental rugs adorning the walls, the multi-coloured stained glass panel arching the counter, the dramatic dark marble table tops. You don't just *eat* at Öz; you *fine-dine*.

Öz (yes, with an umlaut atop the 'o'), in Turkish, means essence or core. Aasim Shah, the restaurant's founder, reckons the name resonates with the place because the food and the ambience try to capture the soul of Turkey.

Aasim's family was into ship chartering. So, he has travelled a lot of the world - Turkey, in particular. As a culinary enthusiast, he grew fond of Turkish cuisine and felt he could fill the need for a place in India that served premium Turkish food.

We began our lunch with mercimek corbası, a lentil and chickpea soup with vegetable stock, olive oil, and a drizzle of chilli oil garnishing it. It tastes a lot like home-cooked dal. So, it is at once familiar, warm, and comforting. The spice, though less apparent, makes the mercimek corbası what it is.

Next, we get the mezze platter with three slices of pita bread and three types - classic, avocado, and beetroot - of hummus that are creamy, smooth, and subtly spicy.

The antep chicken kebap - served with aioli (a cold sauce consisting of an emulsion of garlic and olive oil), roasted tomatoes, and strips of capsicum, onion, and cabbage - looks and tastes different from Indian kebabs. The pieces of meat look wavy and have a coarser texture due to the addition of diced carrots, celery, and white eggs.

We also tried two lamb-based dishes - the oven-cooked kilis lamb (which comes covered by a layer of pita bread) and lamb manti (basically, dumplings with minced lamb) - showcasing the rich flavours and textures of traditional Turkish cuisine.

The most dramatic of the dishes was a vegetarian one: *paneer lokum*. The semi-cooked, soft marinated *paneer* in *isot* pepper comes with smoky mashed potatoes and veggies. Before we can have it, we witness a bit of fire drama. The server, armed with a flame torch, melts a cube of butter and drizzles it all over the dish before setting the *paneer* on fire. This act of arson adds a crispy texture and smoky flavour to the *paneer*.

Finally, as we were dangerously close to slipping into a food coma, we were served *katmer*, a traditional Turkish pastry made by layering thin sheets of dough with butter and then folding and rolling the dough to create a flaky and crispy texture. A dollop of *dondurma* (Turkish ice cream) was smeared on the pistachio-filled flat pastry.

We took a bite. And, with that, we fell in love with Turkey.

The desi touch

If you have a penchant for anything handmade then Go Swadeshi - a handloom exhibition by GoCoop should be your destination.

GoCoop is India's online marketplace, which is also the winner of the first National Award from the Government of India for Handloom Marketing (e-commerce). On display will be a range of handloom saris, fabrics, dress material, stoles, dupattas, menswear, home décor and accessory products by weavers and artisans from across India.

The aim of the event is to help artisans and reinstate the pride in handspun, hand-woven and handcrafted products.The event showcases the rich handloom and handicraft tradition of India and gives a unique opportunity for weavers and artisans to sell their produce directly to consumers, while customers get to craft a style statement going Swadeshi.

The nine-day exhibition, is on Srinivasa Sagara Kalyana Mantapa, near Ashoka Pillar till June 11 from 11am to 8pm.

Movement of Arikomban monitored

Veterinarians treat the injured wild tusker before releasing it into the wild; tribespeople demand the elephant to be brought back to Chinnakanal

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUNELVELI

After releasing the tranquillised wild elephant Arikomban in the Lower Gothaiyar Dam area in the Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu shortly before Monday midnight, the forest personnel have camped there to monitor the movement of the tusker. "We are monitoring the movement of Arikomban through radio collar," sources in the Forest Department said.

Tribespeople stage a dharna near Munnar demanding the return of wild tusker Arikompan on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Before releasing the elephant into the jungle, the forest veterinarians accompanying the pachyderm treated it for the injuries sustained. Since the truck carrying the elephant could not be taken up to Muthukuzhivayal area, which falls under Kanniyakumari district, the tusker was released in the Lower Gothaiyar Dam area, where it was seen enjoying a bath on Tuesday morning, the sources said.

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Tuesday directed the public interest litigation petition pertaining to the translocation of Arikomban to be placed before a Special Bench hearing cases related to environmental issues.

A Division Bench of Justices R. Subramanian and L. Victoria Gowri directed the petition filed by Rebecca Joseph of Ernakulam, which had sought a direction to the authorities to translocate the elephant to a place it was familiar with.

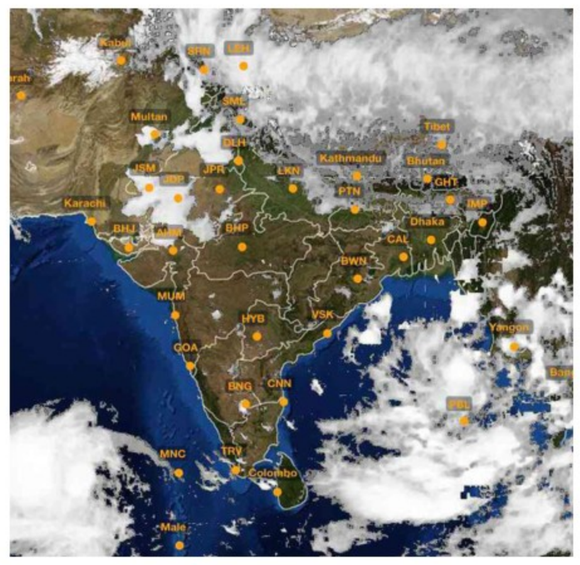
Meanwhile, the tribespeople staged a road blockade on the Suryanelli-Bodimettu bypass near Munnar in Kerala on the second consecutive day on Tuesday seeking the return of the tusker to Chinnakanal. "We want Arikompan. Bring back Arikompan" were some of the slogans raised by the them.

Learning about the capture of Arikompan by Tamil Nadu authorities had distressed the tribespeople who sought the return of the tusker to Kerala.

(With inputs from Madurai and Idukki)

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Manipur, Mizoram, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Delhi, Assam, Meghalaya, Odisha, Telangana, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	38.5	27.2	Kozhikode	37	35.0	24.1
Ahmedabad	—	39.8	27.4	Kurnool	—	40.1	29.3
Aizawl	—	35.7	22.0	Lucknow	—	39.5	24.5
Allahabad	—	43.0	26.6	Madurai	6	39.2	25.6
Bengaluru	—	32.2	22.0	Mangaluru	—	34.4	26.2
Bhopal	—	—	26.6	Mumbai	—	34.7	29.0
Bhubaneswar	6.3	41.9	27.9	Mysuru	—	34.0	—
Chandigarh	2	35.6	23.0	New Delhi	0.4	38.5	23.0
Chennai	—	42.0	26.6	Patna	—	42.0	26.4
Coimbatore	—	36.0	24.4	Port Blair	1	30.7	26.6
Dehradun	5	35.2	19.8	Puducherry	20.7	39.2	25.3
Gangtok	—	25.9	17.4	Pune	—	37.1	23.7
Goa	—	36.4	27.0	Raipur	0.8	42.6	27.2
Guwahati	—	38.6	26.0	Ranchi	6	38.6	25.0
Hubballi	—	35.0	24.0	Shillong	—	26.2	17.8
Hyderabad	—	39.6	27.1	Shimla	—	23.4	13.2
Imphal	—	33.1	22.2	Srinagar	—	25.8	11.2
Jaipur	—	38.8	28.0	Thiruvananthapuram	12	32.8	24.4
Kochi	5	31.4	25.8	Tiruchi	6	39.3	26.0
Kohima	—	28.4	17.4	Vijayawada	—	42.4	28.8
Kolkata	—	39.2	29.7	Visakhapatnam	—	35.3	30.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	3	8	249	163	
Bengaluru	4	16	43	109	131	
Chennai	4	125	57	69	63	
Delhi	7	38	34	247	158	
Hyderabad	61	67	101	119	145	
Kolkata	14	17	29	70	80	
Lucknow	7	46	31	157	146	
Mumbai	32	12	15	25	148	
Pune	123	189	114	73	66	
Visakhapatnam	16	49	21	83	124	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chhapra, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 275 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Cinemas in Kerala to remain shut today and tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Cinemas affiliated to the Film Exhibitors' United Organisation of Kerala will remain shut on June 7 and 8 as a token protest against the alleged violation of the 42-day window between the theatrical and OTT release of movies.

Cinemas across the State will be shut down indefinitely id the government and the trade organisations fail to resolve the issue within 20 days. The people behind the movie *2018*, which had a dream run in cinemas, had violated the agreement by releasing it on a digital platform within 32 days of its theatrical release, said K. Vijayakumar, president, FEUOK, here on Monday.

TH 'Our State Our Taste' to kickstart in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It's time for cooks and food lovers in Karnataka to rustle up and make good scran as the famed culinary contest The Hindu "Our State Our Taste" will start in Karnataka soon. After successful seasons in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, Our State Our Taste will open its innings in Karnataka on June 10 with its first regional round in Mysuru.

Celebrity chef duo Oggarane Dabbi Murali and Suchitra Muralidhar will evaluate the dishes and decide on the winners.

Regional rounds

The regional rounds will be held in 24 cities. Here is the rooster: Mysore on June 10, Chamrajanagar on June 11, Kodagu on June 17, Hassan on June 18, Mandya on June 24, Ramanagara on June 25, Bengaluru on July 1, Chickballapur on July 2, Mangaluru on July 8, Udupi on July 9, Tumakuru on July 15, Shivamoga on July 16, Davangere on July 22, Ballari on July 23, Hubballi on July 29, Belagavi on July 30, Gadag on August 5, Koppal on August 6, Raichur on August 12, Yadgir on August 13, Bidar on August 19, Kalaburagi on August 20, Bagalkot on August 26 and Vijayapura on August 27.

Speaking about the event, Tyron Doll, Vice President - Marketing, Kaleesuwari Refinery Private Limited said, "There is immense talent across the length and breadth of India. Being part of the event that encourages one to showcase their talent to the world makes us feel accomplished."

The participants must cook a traditional Kannada dish or give it a special twist and bring it to the venue.

Grand finale

The winners of the regional round will participate in the grand finale that will be held in Bengaluru on September 10, 2023. The first prize will be ₹1 lakh, the second prize is ₹60,000 and the third prize is ₹40,000.

Contestants must present one dish using Gold Winner cooking oil and bring the used wrapper/ container to the contest venue. On associating with The Hindu, Tyron said, "The association with The Hindu for Our State Our Taste has helped us engage with consumers beyond business."

Suresh Balakrishna, Chief Revenue Officer of The Hindu Group said, "Our State Our Taste is one of our prized culinary contests and the most awaited one amongst our loyal patrons. Every year, we witness an overwhelming response and participation from cooking enthusiasts across the State. And the continuous support from local and regional brands is what pushes us to make the event bigger and better every year and expand it to other markets. After tasting tremendous success in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh we are very happy to bring the contest to Karnataka. We are confident that the contest will garner similar fanfare-like our other editions." The regional winners from each city will get products from Butterfly. Participants can bring a wrapper/ container of RKG Ghee, Aashirvaad Atta and Bambino to the venue and get extra points.

Our State Our Taste is presented by Gold Winner, Co-presented by RKG, Powered by Butterfly, in association with Aashirvaad and Parrys Sugar. Vermicelli partner is Bambino. To participate, scan the QR code or register at bit.ly/OSOT2023 or WhatsApp/ Call/SMS your Name <space> City <space> Name of the dish to 97422 89548/ 97422 89746

EDUCATION HUB
A Business Initiative

MVJ College of Engineering, Bangalore, recently organized the 11th Edition of Vertechx and 4th Edition of TEDx

MVJCE one of the premier Engineering colleges in Karnataka with more than 40 years of expertise in the field of Engineering and Management education, organizes Tech events and Competitions every year, to encourage Engineering students from across India to discover their creative and innovative side. This year, the 11th Edition of Vertechx - 'Tech in Momentum' - was conducted by MVJCE at the college premises. The event was inaugurated by Shri Bharat Lal Meena, IAS (Former Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka) had 29 Technical Events, 15 Workshops, 5 Tech Talks and many leisure events too. The Tech talks which were given by experienced professionals from multidisciplinary Industries, were eagerly consumed by the enthusiastic students of various branches of technical aspirants and that kept the participants on their toes. The events were judged by eminent experts from a wide range of Industries and reputed organizations, and the winners took home cash prizes worth Rs. 5 lakhs. The 4th Edition of TEDxMVJCE, was organized at MVJ College of Engineering. At this year's TEDx event themed 'Odyssey', 6 speakers from various industries outlined their journey to reach their destination. Mr. Vishnu Vardhan, a renowned Finance Investor, Ms. Praachi Nagpal, Miss World, India, 2022, Bruce Lee Mani, the acclaimed guitarist and lead vocalist Ms. Punya Arora, brilliant comedian,Ms. Divya Hegde, an inspiring environmentalist, and Vishnu Ambat, the Founder of Kalakarah challenging the audience to chalk out their own unique path to success, highlighting the power of discipline, creativity, perseverance, and dedication to one's craft, recounting their personal journey etc. The Founder of MVJ College of Engineering, Shri M V Jayaraman, was a great visionary, far ahead of his times. A noted educationist, philanthropist and erudite scholar, he had deep concern for the welfare of society, especially the underprivileged. A road in Bangalore has been named after him, in recognition of his contribution to society.

Presidency University, Bengaluru organized "World's Largest Innovation Expo by 2600 Freshman" on 26th May 2023

The Presidency University of Bangalore has been adjudicated by the world Book of Record for Organizing the World's Largest Innovation Expo involving 2600 freshmen. The Innovation Ecpo,held on the sprawling campus of Presidency University brought together brilliant minds, Innovators,Entrepreneurs and Industry experts from across the globe. The event showcased a diverse range of groundbreaking inventions, cutting-edge technologies and disruptive ideas that are shaping the future. The provisional Certificate of Record was presented to Dr.Subhakar, Vice Chancellor by the key officials of World Book of Record Dr. Vasantha Kavitha K.C Reddy President, WBR, Karnataka, Dr. Shika Sharma,Vice President WBR,Karnataka and Dr.Tithi Bhala, Vice President, WBR in the presence of Sri. Ramachandran Subramani, Advisor, PGI group , Dr. Surendra Kumar Vice Chancellor, Ms. Sameena Noor Ahmad Panali, Registrar and Dr. Divya Rani, Head Innovative Projects.On being recognized by the World Book of Records, the members of Presidency University ,Bangalore was congratulated by the Central Working Committee of World Book of Records.

Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology (NMIT),Bengaluru participated and won accolades in the Electric Solar Vehicle Championship 2023

ESVC 2023 Asia's largest solar event organized by the Imperial Society of Innovative Engineers (ISIEINDIA) was held and co-organized by Galgotias University, Greater Noida. Team Horus successfully completed the race in India's First Solar Car Rally. NMIT emerged as winners in People's Choice award and bagged Future award in dynamic rounds. The team also had secured first place in Cost and Manufacturing and third place in Engineering design category in the Static rounds. Team Horus was incubated in the year 2017, ever since it has been actively winning many national level solar vehicle awards under the guidance of Dr. L. Harish Kumar, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Department of NMIT. Team Horus basically thrives to build sustainable electric and solar vehicles, setting new standards for better functionality and efficiency.Speaking about this achievement of Team Horus, Principal Dr. H.C. Nagaraj told, "We aim to build the society's interest in renewable energy and electric mobility. We encourage budding engineers to combat real-life applications and improve their problem skills through experiential learning. Students at Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology are exposed with industry trends and our objective is to create future ready responsible engineers with outcome-based education.

DR.M.S RAMAIAH MEMORIAL LECTURE-2023

The event was held at Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bengaluru as a mark of birth centenary celebrations of the founder chairman Dr.M.S Ramaiah and Diamond Jubilee of Ramaiah Institute of Technology on Monday, 5th June 2023. Dr. N.V.R. Naidu, the Principal, of RIT, in his welcome speech, introduced the chief guest Sri.Kailash Satyarthi a distinguished Nobel Laureate and welcomed all the dignitaries. Then Dr. M.R. Jayaram, Hon'ble Chairman GEF and other dignitaries felicitated with pride and honour to the first Indian peace Nobel awardee. Chief guest Sri. Kailash Satyarthi a distinguished Nobel Laureate gave a memorial lecture on 'Globalising compassion: The road ahead'. Sri. Kailash Satyarthi began his speech by speaking at length about the values of compassion and kindness, and the need to promote their globalization along with the progress made in science and technology. Spoke about his childhood experiences. He added how the Nobel Prize had changed his life and the hardships he had to face before gaining global attention. He concluded his lecture by stressing the universal value of compassion and urged everyone to do something good for humanity, community, and society. Dr. M.R. Jayaram, Hon'ble Chairman GEF in his inspirational remarks expressed the relevance of the globalisation of compassion with many illustrations. Shri. Seetharam, Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, GFE & Director of RIT, Sri.M.R.Ramaiah, Hon'ble Secretary, Sri.B.S.Ramaprasad, Chief Executive, GEF, Sri. G. Ramachandra, Chief of Finance, GEF, Dr.Archana, Registrar (academics) grace the occasion. The Program concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr.Pradeep Kumar Dixit, Vice-Principal, and anchored by Dr.Anitha, Professor, RIT.

INDIAN RAILWAYS

APPEAL

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www.osdma.org — all information available

www.srcodisha.nic.in — photos of the deceased

www.bmc.gov.in — list of passengers undergoing treatment at S.C.B. Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack

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PUB/151/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The sanctioned funds to expand Delhi University's library

110 In ₹ crore. Delhi University vice-chancellor Yogesh Singh announced that the varsity has sanctioned funds for the expansion of its central library and that construction work will commence soon. PTI

The number of Unique Disability Identity cards issued in India

94 lakh. Data from the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry showed that e-UDID cards were generated in 716 districts in all States/UTs, of which only nine have been generated from West Bengal. PTI

Annual compensation owed by over-emitting nations to India

1,446 In $ per capita until 2050. Countries such as the U.S. and Germany could be liable to pay a total of $170 trillion in compensation to low-emitters like India. PTI

Pakistan government's total debt increases, as per the Central Bank

58.6 In ₹ trillion. The country's debt increased 34.1% year-on-year at the end of April. Domestic debt servicing in Pakistan is becoming a huge challenge for the country. PTI

A boat carrying refugees sank in the Bay of Bengal

180 refugees . Last year, around 3,500 Rohingyas attempted to cross the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, out of which 348 people died or went missing. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why is there trouble in Kosovo again?

Where do the roots of tensions between Kosovo and Serbia lie? What happened after Kosovo declared independence in 2008? What triggered the recent clashes? Where do the EU-brokered resolution talks stand? What role does Russia, NATO and the EU play in the conflict?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:
In the aftermath of one of the worst escalation of tensions between Kosovo and Serbia in at least a decade, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) last week sent 700 more of its peacekeeping troops to Kosovo. Clashes broke out on May 29 between Serbs protesting in North Kosovo and the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFor), leaving about 30 NATO soldiers and 50 Serbs injured. Since then, the Presidents of Serbia and Kosovo have met once on June 1 under pressure from the European Union (EU) in the presence of French and German leaders. However, a resolution to the long-standing conflict remains uncertain.

What are the roots of the conflict?
Both Kosovo and Serbia lie in the Balkans, a region of Europe made up of countries that were once a part of the erstwhile Republic of Yugoslavia. Kosovo, a former province of Serbia, unilaterally declared Independence in 2008 and is recognised as a country by about 100 nations including the U.S. and a number of EU-member countries.

Serbia, however, does not recognise Kosovo's sovereignty and continues to consider it as a part of itself despite having no administrative control over it. Serbia sees historic significance in Kosovo. The Serbian Empire had gained control of Kosovo in the 12th century, and the latter went on to become the heart of the kingdom with several Serb Orthodox Christian churches and monasteries of significance being built in Kosovo.

Serbia lost Kosovo for 500 years to the Ottoman Empire in the 1389 Battle of Kosovo. During the Ottoman Rule, the ethnic and religious balance shifted in Kosovo, leading it to become a majority ethnic Albanian region with Muslims. After five centuries of Ottoman rule, Kosovo became part of Serbia in the early 20th century and post the Second World War, it was eventually made a province (with autonomy) of Serbia, which was then one of the six republics of Yugoslavia. Serbia considered this the rightful return of Kosovo, but the ethnic Albanians, who currently make up 90% of Kosovo's population considered it unfair. In the 1980s, Kosovo Albanians increasingly mobilised and sought separation from Serbia. In 1989, Serbia's autocratic leader Slobodan Milošević leveraged Serbian nationalism to consolidate power and stripped Kosovo of its autonomy.

In the late 1990s, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), consisting mainly Kosovo Albanians, led an insurgency against the Serbian rule of Kosovo. Serbia responded by cracking down on the rebellion by deploying heavy forces in 1998 and 1999. Nearly 13,000 lives, mainly of ethnic Albanians, were lost during this period. However, in 1999, NATO intervened by carrying out air raids and bombardment of Serb targets, forcing Serbia to end hostilities and pull out of Kosovo. Subsequently, NATO deployed 50,000 peacekeepers and through the UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1244, a transitional UN-led administration began to head Kosovo. In 2008, Kosovo declared independence from Serbia. While Serbia challenged Kosovo's actions before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the ICJ was of the opinion that Kosovo's declaration was not against international law.

What has happened since 2008?
Currently, an ethnic Serb minority of more than 50,000 resides in multiple municipalities in the northern part of Kosovo bordering Serbia, making up about 5.3% of the country's population. The Kosovo Serbs do not recognise Kosovo state institutions, receive pay and benefits from Serbia's budget, and pay no taxes either to Pristina, the capital of Kosovo or Belgrade, the Serbian Capital.

Since 2008, clashes have broken out on and off in Kosovo's northern region, either when Serbs have clashed with Kosovo's police or due to the larger issue of Serbia not recognising Kosovo's independent status. Meanwhile, Kosovo cannot become a member country of the UN without Serbia's approval as it has its diplomatic allies in Russia and China who would veto such a decision.

In 2011, EU, backed by the U.S, initiated talks to resolve the conflict between the two countries, offering the prospect that the two could only become a part of the EU if they bilaterally normalised relations. In 2013, the two reached the Brussels Agreement brokered by the EU, which included measures to dismantle Serbia-backed parallel structures in Kosovo's north and the creation of the Association of Serb Municipalities to administratively link Kosovo's 10 Serb-majority municipalities. While the agreement was not fully implemented on the ground, the participation of Serbs in elections was facilitated.

In July 2022, violent clashes broke out in the northern region over the issue of Kosovo asking Serbians drivers to use temporary Kosovo number plates for their vehicles when in the country, just like Serbia requires Kosovo vehicles to change number plates when they pass through or travel in Serbia. The ethnic Serbs in the north then staged protests and put up blockades at the two border entry points between Serbia and Kosovo. These are the only points through which Kosovo citizens can travel to Western Europe and engage in trade. Clashes once again escalated in December last year with the Kosovo Serbs putting up more barricades and Serbia warning that it was ready near the border with its combat troops.

What prompted the recent clashes?
In April this year, Kosovo held mayoral elections in municipalities. These elections were boycotted by ethnic Serbs in the northern municipalities and saw only about a 3% turnout, as a result of which ethnic Albanian mayors got elected in these municipalities. Notably, protesting the July 2023 move by Kosovo asking for a change of number plates, ethnic Serb mayors in northern municipalities, along with local judges and 600 police officers had resigned in November and opposed fresh elections to their posts.

Over a week ago, with the support of the Kosovo police, ethnic Albanian mayors took office in northern Kosovo's Serb-majority area and faced protests by Serbs. The move by Kosovo to install Albanian members led the U.S. and its allies to rebuke Pristina, as it triggered clashes. Then on May 29, violent clashes took place between NATO soldiers and Serb protesters.

Where do the resolution talks stand?
So far, the dialogue has produced over 30 mostly technical and some political agreements, between Serbia and Kosovo. Since late 2015, there has been little progress in reaching new agreements or implementing existing ones. In 2018, former Kosovo President Thaçi and Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić had proposed redrawing borders and swapping some territories between the two countries as a way of normalising ties but the EU rejected it saying it would open the Pandora's box of territorial claims in parts of Europe.

The talks were suspended in 2018 due to Kosovo's imposition of 100% tariffs on Serbian goods in response to the latter's campaign to block Kosovo's Interpol membership bid.

In March this year, both Serbia and Kosovo tentatively agreed to EU's plan which proposed that Belgrade should stop lobbying against Kosovo's candidature in international organisations including the United Nations. In turn, Kosovo was to form an association of Serb-majority municipalities. Additionally, both sides were to also open representative offices in each other's capital to help resolve outstanding disputes. However, the two parties eventually walked out of singing the deal as Kosovo's Prime Minister Albin Kurti faced nationalist opposition for not being assertive enough while Serbia's populist leader Mr.Vučić was criticised back home for engaging in a compromise. Talks have also stalled because both sides now doubt the EU's seriousness about granting them membership as many of the EU countries, including France, are against the bloc's further expansion.

What about Serbia's ties with Russia?
Kosovo's current leader and the West are also concerned about Serbia's strong historic and military ties with Moscow and its political closeness with President Vladimir Putin who has maintained support for the Serbian claim. The concerns have intensified after the start of the Ukraine conflict and Mr. Kurti has warned of a spillover in the Balkans backed by Russia. Besides, Serbia's dependence on Russia for diplomatic support to counter Kosovo's bids at the UN puts Moscow in a position of influence. The Carnegie Endowment paper on the issue points out that Kremlin also "fears that ending the conflict between Serbia and Kosovo will diminish Russia's stature in Serbia and severely undermine its clout in the Balkans".

What next?
Since the Presidents of both sides met on June 1, Kosovo has indicated that a solution for de-escalation is close and it is open to holding fresh elections in Serb dominant municipalities, provided they are held in a free and fair manner, without Belgrade pressuring ethnic Serbs to boycott the vote.

Tensions remain high: Hundreds of ethnic Serbs carry a giant Serbian flag through the town of Zvecan, in northern Kosovo, on May 31. AFP

THE GIST

- Clashes broke out on May 29 between Serbs protesting in North Kosovo and the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFor), leaving about 30 NATO soldiers and 50 Serbs injured.
- Both Kosovo and Serbia lie in the Balkans, a region of Europe made up of countries that were once a part of the erstwhile Republic of Yugoslavia. Kosovo, a former province of Serbia, unilaterally declared Independence in 2008. Serbia, however, does not recognise Kosovo's sovereignty.
- Kosovo's current leader and the West are also concerned about Serbia's strong historic and military ties with Moscow and its political closeness with President Vladimir Putin who has maintained support for the Serbian claim.

Useful first step

Issues behind violence in Manipur are knotty but truth-telling should help

The setting up of a three-member panel by the Union government to probe the ethnic violence in Manipur, that has claimed nearly 100 lives and displaced over 35,000 people, must be welcomed. Its terms of reference are clear – an inquiry into the causes and the spread of the violence and whether there was any dereliction of duty by the authorities. This has the potential to set a process of truth-telling in motion that could nudge the possibility of reconciliation between the wounded ethnic communities. Riots and ethnic violence in particular rarely occur without driving forces – the fact that this occurred in Manipur with the help of looted weapons from police armouries only underlines this. Affixing responsibility for the violent actions to key actors and holding them accountable are the first steps in building trust in those responsible for governance. That arson and violence continue in the State even after the Union Home Minister visited affected areas and only 18% of the looted weapons returned to the armouries suggest that distrust among the two ethnic communities, the Meiteis and Kukis, remains intact, besides indicating the inability of the State government to act as a catalyst for a return to lasting peace.

The paramilitary forces that have created a security grid and are patrolling "buffer areas" between the Imphal valley and adjoining hill areas, where the Kuki people live, to prevent any violence, can only be of limited help. The political representatives of the two communities – MLAs in particular who share party affiliations but differ in their ethnicities – must act as the bearers of peace and reconciliation. The underlying differences between the groups require a longer political dialogue and rumination as they are not easy to solve. Many among the Kukis (and the Nagas) claim that the demand for Scheduled Tribe status for Meiteis – opposed by a section among them – is unjustified, while Meitei sections resent the benefits of affirmative action for "hill-tribes". The Meiteis also have the grievance that they lack the explicit privilege of owning land in hill areas, unlike the rights that anyone can have in the Imphal valley. Historical patterns of land ownership and dwelling by the Kukis have also made them susceptible to claims that they have encroached on reserved forests, and the steps taken by the government to clear such areas have created an impression of siege mentality among them. A process of reconciliation cannot succeed unless these knotty issues are tackled; for this to happen, representatives of these communities must rise above their narrow sectarianism and look for constitutional solutions. A beginning has to be made to tamp down on the violence, return the displaced to their homes, secure their lives, and isolate those responsible for wanton violence and bring them to justice. Thus, much depends on the commission's work in this regard.

Climax at the summit

India will have to hold its nerve in the WTC final to come out on top

Away from the adrenaline-sprinkled nights of the recent Indian Premier League, it is time for Rohit Sharma's men to congregate together in their Test whites. The Twenty20 bash may have its share of thrills but for the connoisseur, Test cricket spread over five days is the ultimate yardstick to judge both the singular – the player – and the collective – the team. And the prize cannot be bigger than the World Test Championship (WTC) title on offer as India take on Australia in the final commencing at London's Oval on Wednesday. In a part of London where a large number of Asians, Africans and the West Indians reside, India will not be short of support. It may be an away game but Rohit's men will feel at home looking at the stands that will have a large Indian presence. India prospered in its recent exchanges against Australia, be it at home or Down Under, in what is proving to be an exhilarating rivalry, but summit clashes are loaded with extra pressure and both units will step onto the turf as equals. It is a sobering reality that India last won an ICC silverware during the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy in England and this is a historical vacuum that Rohit and company will feel a need to address.

In the previous WTC cycle which culminated in the 2021 final at Southampton, India lost to Kane Williamson's New Zealand. For the senior group of skipper Rohit, Virat Kohli, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, the Oval contest offers another shot at ICC glory. India will miss its injured duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Rishabh Pant, but in Shubman Gill, has a batter seemingly destined for greatness. And the old cliché of Indian batting against Aussie speedsters will be again in vogue. India too has a potent seam attack and it would be interesting to see if Rohit presses ahead with both the spinners, Ashwin and Jadeja, or opts for just one. The Oval surface, like Sydney's SCG, can have a subcontinental flavour, but under whimsical English skies and with a hint of grass on the pitch, the tussle could throw up many riveting angles. Rival captain Pat Cummins helms a strong pace attack, with Mitchell Starc offering the left-arm dimension. He also has Steve Smith, David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne as his batting colleagues. With the Ashes series against England looming ahead, Cummins would hope that the WTC final would offer a fillip, while India, ever consistent, equally wants to prove that it can hold its nerve in the climax.

The Indian polity, a democratic diagnosis

Hamid Ansari

was the Vice-President of India (2007-2017)

An opinion article, last month, in one of India's main English dailies, summed up the emerging prospects succinctly: 'A parliamentary majority is being used as a bulldozer to fashion an autocracy, the new India version of a presidential form of governance...The replacement, at the forthcoming inaugural [of the new Parliament building], of the real president of the Indian republic by the prime minister may symbolise more than the ego of an individual'.

I had, some years ago, read and put away Levitsky and Ziblatt's book on the fate of democracies, happy in the thought that India did not find a mention in it. Little had I visualised a time when dexterous devices would be used in quest of the desired objective.

Our parliamentary system, crafted with some care, was sought to achieve law-making; accountability of the executive; approval of taxation proposals and control of national finances, and discussion of matters of public interest and concern. India, it said, 'shall be a Union of States' and the provisions of Part XI of the Constitution would govern the relations between the Union and the States.

B.R. Ambedkar had emphasised that the eventual objective of social democracy is a trinity of liberty, equality and fraternity, best achieved through the effective functioning of the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. These foundational principles were spelt out in the Preamble of the Constitution and were reinforced by the Supreme Court of India in the Basic Structure doctrine.

A decline

The challenge was in effective functioning of the principal ingredients, beginning with the first. Available data make evident a progressive decline in its functioning year-wise, session-wise and decade-wise. It is clear that Parliament has lost its effectiveness as an instrument of scrutiny, accountability and oversight. Instead, devices of disruption crafted in opposition and innocently disowned in government, are sought to be legitimised. Above all, the leadership of the day endorses it by a studied silence or lack of attendance, or both and with a noticeable tardiness towards the functioning of the standing committees. The end result is a declining process of scrutiny, debate and dissent. Periodic elections apart, informed opinion is concerned about its derailment and the resultant consequences. The emergence of social media, a rival claimant to representative in civil society, has emerged as both complementary and antithetical to question or supplement the representativeness of Parliament. It has manifested itself in both forms in our polity. So, as a political scientist put it, 'while Parliament has become increasingly representative in descriptive terms, it also simultaneously become[s] unresponsive in terms of legislation and governance and has tended to avoid accountability by closing ranks'. An element of ideological orientation in the shape of dharmic sanctification, as in the Parliament ceremony, was used to reinforce it.

> Parliament has lost its effectiveness as an instrument of oversight — there is a declining process of scrutiny, debate and dissent

These moves suggest a design for centralisation and personalisation, and the creation of a 'Fuehrer or Zaeem-like' image not unknown in recent history. Alongside, administrative devices have been sought to be used to bring in line state institutions having an impact on the electoral process. Both contributed to the achievement of a transition from populism to electoral authoritarianism; both are violative of the spirit of the constitutional text.

One consequence of this trend, reflective of the unease generated by it, is a statement in the shape of a letter written to the President of India recently by a group of former civil servants expressing concern over attempts by the government to change the character of the civil service and its functioning, leading to the civil servants being 'torn between conflicting loyalties', thereby weakening their ability to be impartial. 'This has disturbed the federal balance and left civil servants torn between conflicting loyalties, thereby weakening their ability to be impartial'.

'Hindutva and development'

These trends in the changing character of the Indian polity have caused public concern and have not gone unnoticed by observers abroad. One editorial comment opined that 'Hindu nationalism in India is writing an epitaph for the country's experiment with multi-ethnic secular democracy'. In his tome published last year, Christophe Jaffrelot analysed the Hindutva ideology (laced with populism) based on Israeli scholar Sammy Smooha's theory of ethnic democracy – defined as the ideology of a group that considers itself bound by racial, linguistic, religious or other cultural characteristics with a sense of superiority and rejection of the 'Other' generally perceived as a real or perceived threat to the survival and integrity of the ethnic nation.'

The conflation between nationalism and Hindutva has been the backbone of the new hegemony that has been of immense help to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in projecting a potent conjoint image of Hindutva and development. That, as Suhas Palshikar has pointed out, "is why the Bharatiya Janata Party has been so happy with intellectuals trying to problematise the nation. That particular intellectual initiative simultaneously places the BJP in a position of immense advantage and ensures that 'anti-BJP' would necessarily be equated with the anti-national. Independently, both ideas – Hindutva and development – are potent political discourses. By weaving them together with nationalism, Narendra Modi has bound them into an arsenal of his political offensive."

This carefully calibrated personality cult with an image of infallibility has been reinforced by the publicity associated with India's presidency of the G-20. The entire effort is to mesmerise the public, particularly the middle class, with the delusion of an image of India being the Vishvaguru at a time when the contrary is observed – in the falling standards in educational institutions, in rising unemployment and its impact on public welfare.

A new Parliament building, questions

The inauguration of the new building of Parliament was noticeably devoid of any suggestions to make its functioning more meaningful. The formal equality of the two Houses seems to have been done away with and the Leader of the Lok Sabha in his oration could have suggested (but did not), measures to increase the working days to 90-100 days as in the past, initiate the practice of having a Prime Minister's Question Hour each week in both Houses, and proposed more effective measuring for the functioning of the Committee system to enhance its effectiveness and public confidence. More working space for the Members of Parliament could thus be justified in practice. No such suggestions, however, were forthcoming.

So, will the new building contribute to a more functional and productive Parliament? Will it enhance the democratic process in the polity? Will it, as the Prime Minister said in his inaugural speech, 'awaken the sense of duty in every Indian' and include in it those who sit and work in the new structure and those who lead it in its primary duty? Would he recall to himself and his colleagues Ambedkar's December 1952 lecture, on 'Conditions Precedent for the Successful Working of Democracy'?

A global order as technology's much needed pole star

Amar Patnaik

is a Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha from Odisha; a former CAG bureaucrat and an advocate

Ever since the Dot-com bubble burst in 2000, the rapid scale and pace of development of technology have, radically and disruptively transformed our societies and daily lives. While there is no denying that this has made life easier, it has also thrown up complex challenges that call for a revisit of some fundamental notions in polity and governance.

Challenges to notion of nation-state

First, as defined by political theorists, a nation-state is a territorially-bounded sovereign polity. However, this fundamental notion of a nation-state of a geographical unit in which citizens live is undergoing a massive change because of technology. While geographical boundaries are still essential to be safeguarded against physical aggression/invasion, there are now several externalities occurring across the borders of nation-states, i.e. cyber-attacks, which have a ripple effect on the physical boundaries to challenge their socio-economic and political existence. The advent of Web3, massive peer-to-peer networks and blockchains has allowed actors, both state and non-state, to influence areas such as trade, commerce, health and education even while remaining outside of financial and judicial scope.

Second, geography-based rules are no longer easily enforceable simply because of the declining significance of conventional geographical borders in the era of high technology. Now, any form of "virtual activity" is not confined to the realms of the borders of a country; data travel on the chain of the world wide web and spread across the world at speed hitherto unimaginable. More importantly, when such activities fall foul of the laws of a particular geographically-determined nation-state, it is extremely difficult in the absence of a globally-accepted norm, to enforce the law in that particular geography and book the recalcitrant actors under the laws of the nation-state. It is difficult to collect incontrovertible evidence without cooperation from other geographies. So, when the national sovereignty of countries is challenged by activities beyond their physical boundaries, their existing constitutionally set-up institutions comprising the executive, legislature and judiciary will prove inadequate in tackling them. Further, it is also difficult to establish applicability of any country-specific legislation due to the universal nature of technology, leading to problems in enforceability.

> Given the borderless nature of technology and the anonymity of the actors involved, India, as the G-20 chair, can take the lead in shaping this

Third, the emergence of newer technologies has exposed the incapacity and inability of the government of the nation-state to administer and regulate these technologies. No longer is the nation-state the only conduit through which multinational corporations, non-governmental organisations and supranational organisations, both legitimate and illegitimate, state and non-state actors, need to operate. These entities have transcended physical boundaries to collaborate with the rest of the world, independent of traditional administrative and regulatory institutions. For instance, topographical maps, which used to be produced by public and military institutions, are now available entirely by private non-state actors, such as Apple or Google Maps.

Governing complexities and technology

On the economic side, "with a valuation of more than $4,100 billion, the five largest American tech companies (Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, and Microsoft) have symbolically surpassed Germany's GDP (the world's fourth largest economy) in terms of valuation". One of the most important levers of these companies is data and their use.

This means that data "have become the most important raw material of our times, and only a handful of companies now hold unparalleled economic power and influence over it. These are the meta-platforms: their huge size allows them to constantly increase the amount of information they analyse and refine the algorithms they use to influence, if not control, us and our activities". Thus, as reiterated by India in the past at various international fora, "the borderless nature of technology, and, more importantly, anonymity of actors involved, have challenged the traditionally accepted concepts of sovereignty, jurisdiction/regulation, and privacy". In such a scenario, a principle-based global order for technology would help in streamlining the enforceability challenges in the adoption and diffusion of technology and providing guidance to emerging economies on how to deal with the evolving definitions of their sovereignty. Further, as we have seen in case of the COVID-19 pandemic, the way forward in managing future global pandemics is probably by the adoption of digital health. But what will the meaning of this digital health framework be if we cannot have a data-sharing ecosystem based on privacy, free flow of data, and a global regulatory system trusted by all countries/nation-states, particularly developing countries? Therefore, India needs a data transfer and data privacy law. But these laws, in isolation, will only be able to do so much unless a global principle-based regulation architecture trusted by all countries facilitates it.

I espoused this approach in Parliament (on the need for a global order for the deep Web, crypto, or regulations for cross-border data flow). Even the Finance Minister while addressing a meeting with the International Monetary Fund on the guidelines of a G-20 event on virtual private digital assets, emphasised the need to have a globally-coordinated approach to the regulation of digital assets such as crypto-currencies, given the potential risks they pose to the world's financial ecosystem.

With India, as the current chair of the G-20, this is the perfect opportunity to take leadership in this as it has done earlier in green initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance or the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Safe rail travel

The maxim goes, "Speed thrills but kills" (Editorial, "Tragic track", June 6). The obsession with speed and development at all costs leads to tragedies. No amount of inquiry will bring back those we have lost. There is a story that there was once a team of officials from the erstwhile Soviet Union conducting a survey on the functioning of the Indian Railways. Their report had the line, "Now, we also believe in the existence of god". A developing country such as India does not need Bullet or state-of-the-art trains, but trains that ensure safe journeys.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

The Indian Railways now operates goods and passenger trains with more carriages and rakes, and with enhanced speed. Therefore, loop lines at stations must be lengthened far beyond their present length. Inbound train pilots must have sufficient distance and time to check whether a loop line is occupied by a stationary train (at the station).

P. Vasudeva Rao,
Secunderabad

Relocation dynamics

Elephants are social animals. Once an animal detaches itself from a herd, it can get very difficult. In the 'Arikompan' case, the elephant appears to have acquired an unusual taste — for rice in urban dwellings. Any amount of relocating such animals after a stressful capture may not be favourable for the animal and human habitats nearby.

Dr. V. Purushothaman,
Chennai

New innings

The reader community would like to extend its congratulations to the new Chairperson of The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited, Nirmala Lakshman (Page 1, June 6). Long-time readers expect her leadership will usher in a new era of balanced perspectives and diverse opinions. As technology continues to shape the media landscape, one hopes that the publication remains at the forefront of innovation, engaging with readers across platforms.

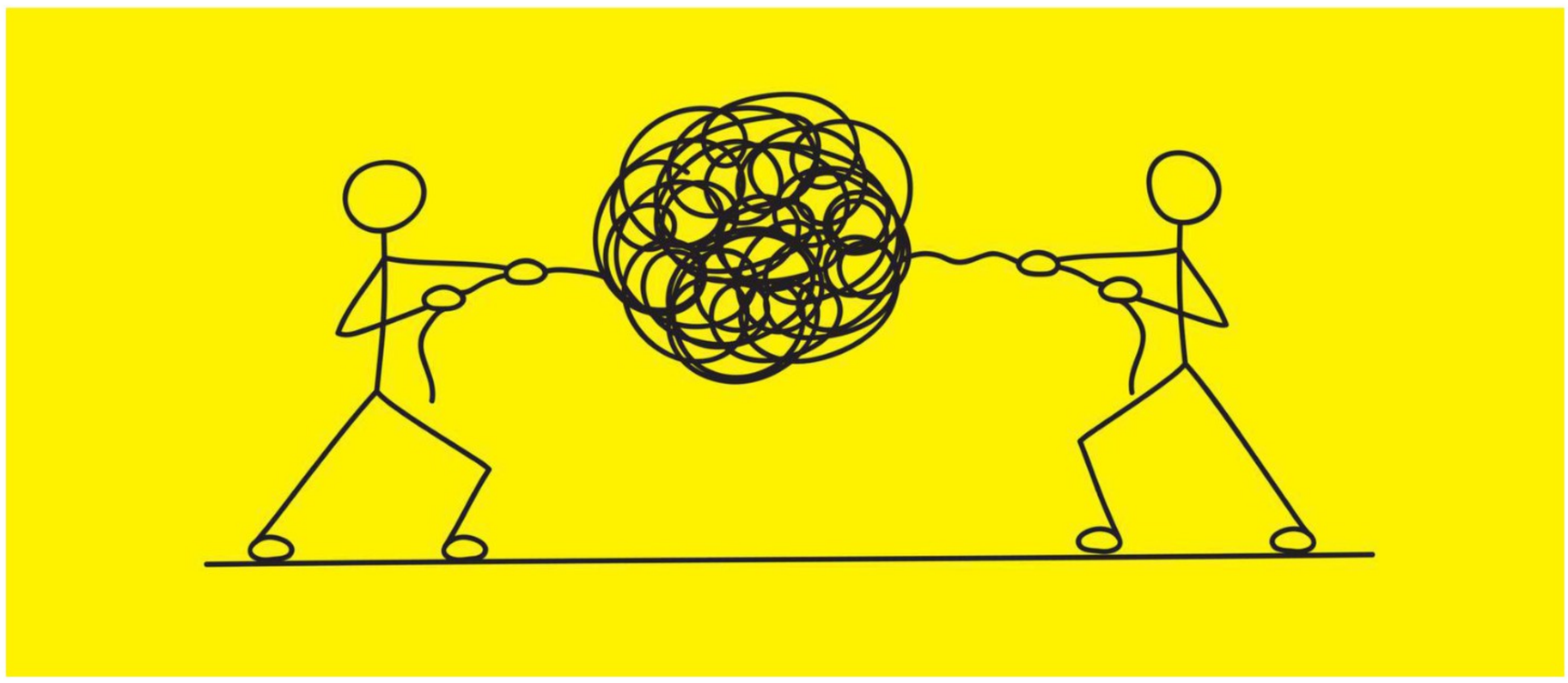
P. Sreenivasan,
Chennai

In the appointment of Ms. Lakshman as the new Chairperson, readers extend her a warm welcome on board what is an illustrious media group. One must also laud the services rendered by the outgoing Chairperson, Ms. Malini Parthasarathy. That the daily will uphold journalistic ethos and report news as it happens is the only expectation that discerning readers of this age-old newspaper have.

R. Mahadevan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

KEYWORD



ISTOCKPHOTO

Deconstruction theory: how it challenges the text and systems of meaning-making

Algeria-born French philosopher Jacques Derrida introduced the theory and practice of deconstruction. It had a tremendous impact in several disciplines beyond literary criticism, including anthropology, sociology, psychoanalysis, feminism, queer theory, art and architecture

G. Sampath

The common sense understanding of language is that it consists of words (written signs and phonemes), which carry specific meanings, and rules for combining those words into sentences.

We believe that any use of language – a speech or a piece of writing – refers to 'something' in the 'real world' out there. This 'something' is typically what we consider as the 'meaning' of a given instance of speech or writing. This assumption of a text's meaning being stable, along with the necessary use of binaries (black/white, nature/culture, male/female, etc) underpins the Western philosophical tradition of reason, logic, ethics, and values that together constitute modernity.

Unravelling fixed meanings

This tradition has been challenged by philosophers such as Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) and Martin Heidegger (1889-1976), who questioned categories such as 'knowledge', 'truth' and 'identity'. Algeria-born French philosopher Jacques Derrida (1930-2004) carried this critique to its furthest end with his theory of 'deconstruction'. In the words of the famous American literary critic M.H. Abrams, deconstruction is "a theory and practice of reading which questions and claims to 'subvert' or 'undermine' the assumption that the system of language provides grounds that are adequate to establish the boundaries, the coherence or unity, and the determinate meanings of a literary text."

Derrida never explains in a straight forward fashion what deconstruction is and how it is done. His books are complex and tough to read, and deliberately so. Rather than expound his theory in a linear fashion, his preferred mode of explication was via practice – through a close reading of canonical Western texts or literary works. For instance, in his most well known work, *Of Grammatology*, published in 1967, he analyses Jean Jacques Rousseau's 'Essay on the Origin of Languages' (1781) to show how it operates on the basis of a series of binary oppositions in which one is privileged or considered superior to the other, whereas the very language of the text contains enough contradictions. Such an identification and inversion of binaries is a common mode of deconstructive critical reading.

In Rousseau's text, for instance, rather than culture being a 'supplement' of 'nature' (it is assumed that primitive man was a child of 'nature' who acquired culture with the invention of language), one could argue that it is 'nature' which is the supplement of culture (since there could not be a concept of 'nature' unless there existed a culture that could think of it in the first place). Again, the idea of a 'supplement' is a key element of Derridean deconstruction, denoting what is seemingly inessential and accorded an inferior status in a hierarchy compared to the 'original' but is, in fact, always already embedded in the original – as seen in the nature/culture binary. This almost ritual challenging of traditional, hierarchical binaries (pure/impure, high/low, master/slave, etc) also meant that deconstructive practice could be a handy political tool to destabilise normative power structures through subversive interpretative manoeuvres.

Differ and defer

Derrida's other two seminal works on deconstruction are *Writing and Difference* (1967) and *Speech and Phenomena* (1967). A major contention in these works is that "there is no outside-the-text". His opponents have often wilfully misinterpreted this principle to suggest that Derrida believes that there is 'nothing' outside a text – that 'everything' is a linguistic construct, and that he is denying the materiality of the 'real world' outside language.

But what Derrida actually meant was to challenge the unitary nature of a text and question the assumption of a text's boundaries. In other words, by implying that a text's meaning had no fixed boundaries, he was suggesting that all meaning-making activity was always already context-driven (originating 'outside' the text) and therefore inherently unstable. This is so also because of the very nature of language. Derrida uses the portmanteau word 'différance', combining 'differ' and 'defer' to underscore two properties of language: that meaning is based on difference between signs, and that meaning is infinitely deferred. He builds on the Swiss linguist, semiotician and philosopher Ferdinand de Saussure's (1857-1913) theory of language as a system of signs where each sign is able to generate meaning not because it refers to a 'thing' in the world outside language but because of its difference from other signs within the language.

For instance, the meaning of the sign 'house' derives not from the fact that this word and the sound it makes when spoken aloud (a 'signifier') refers to some image of a 'house' (the 'signified') in the real world. Rather, it derives from the fact that its 'signified' both differs from, and is a deferred meaning of, other signifiers such as 'palace', 'apartment', 'bungalow', etc. That's how, if we look up any given word in the dictionary, its meaning would be expressed in other words which, if looked up, would lead to other words in what Derrida calls an "endless regress". Thus, there is no such thing as a 'signified' that transcends language – no 'transcendental signified'. This has deep philosophical implications for how we understand fundamental concepts such as 'truth', 'essence' and 'identity' because all of these are based on what Derrida calls a 'metaphysics of presence'.

Western civilisation and philosophy, according to deconstruction theory, is grounded in this metaphysics of presence or 'logos' – the 'ultimate referent' that serves as a "self-certifying" centre that fixes coherent meanings to utterances and texts. But this is an elusive presence, just another version of 'God' as the ultimate guarantor of a language's validity, and since language is nothing but a system of signs based on mutual difference, a metaphysics based on 'presence' is doomed to fail.

The impact of deconstruction theory

Starting from the 1970s, deconstruction inaugurated a powerful stream of literary criticism, with critics such as Paul de Man and Barbara Johnson publishing influential analyses of literary works that carried close textual readings associated with the then prominent 'New School' to another level altogether. Deconstruction has also had a tremendous impact in several disciplines beyond literary criticism, including anthropology (where it served to draw attention to, and account for, the impact of the observer on the observed), sociology, psychoanalysis, feminism (where, for instance, Judith Butler argued that since gender is performative, feminist politics is independent of a woman's identity), queer theory, art and architecture.

Given its potentially radical import, deconstruction has had its fair share of aggressive opponents who have sought to dismiss it as "obscurantist wordplay" and accused it of being 'ahistorical' and 'nihilistically relativist'. While there may be some merit to the charges of ahistoricism with regard to some of its practitioners, there is little doubt that it invigorated the intellectual disciplines where it found a footing and unleashed a rich stream of intellectual debate and critique of pre-existing ideological hegemonies and dogmas.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, A. S. Shah, Ahmedabad, wants to know the meaning of the word 'picky'."

"It means 'overly fastidious, exacting, fussy'.

She is rather picky about her food.

Such a person is difficult to please. The word is used in a derogatory sense. So is the word 'choosy'. The two words mean the same."

"Sir, Mr. N. Balu, 3/25, Agraharam, Kambarasampettai, Trichy, wants to know how to use the word 'media'."

" 'Media' is the plural of the Latin word medium. 'Media' is used now in the sense of 'mass media'. Television, radio and newspapers are some of the effective media available now. The medium of television is more powerful than others. As there is a tendency to consider the different media together, some use it as a singular.

'The media is biased' instead of 'The media are biased'. Thinking that 'media' is singular, some form a plural by adding 's' to it. 'The medias have a role to play' instead of 'The media have a role to play'. But the use of 'media' as a singular is widely condemned. 'Medium' is the singular and 'media' is the plural. It is likely that in a few years 'media' as a singular will become acceptable. It happened with some words like 'data'. 'Data' is the plural of the Latin word datum. Datum means 'given fact, piece of information'. Originally 'data' was used only as a plural in English. Now it is used both as a singular and as a plural.

The necessary data is not available.

The necessary data are not available."

"Sir, Mr. J. Krishnamurthy, 22, Ram Colony, West Mambalam, Madras, wants to know whether there is a word 'upliftment'."

" 'Upliftment' is there in American English, but not in British English. 'Uplift' is used both as a noun and as a verb in both British and American English. But American English uses 'upliftment' also as a noun. English newspapers published in India seem to prefer 'upliftment' to 'uplift'."

"Sir, Mr. V. Sankaran wants to know whether it is right to say 'your goodself', while addressing an individual."

" 'Your good self' and 'your good selves' were used in business correspondence in Britain. They are no longer used. F. T. Wood says in his Current English Usage: 'Your good self' and 'your good selves' are pieces of deplorable business jargon which no self-respecting business house should allow to appear in its correspondence. Even worse, and bordering on to illiteracy, is 'your goodself. 'Your goodself' is used in India by some when they address a superior or a person they respect greatly. It is not used in this sense in British or American English. In our languages, we have several terms for 'you' depending on age, authority, etc. English doesn't have them. Some try to convey their respect by using 'your good self'. There is nothing wrong in this. We should use English to suit our purpose."

Published in The Hindu on March 29, 1988.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

At least 275 people were killed and more than 1,000 were injured in a three-train collision in Balasore on June 2. Here's a quiz on train accidents from across the world

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

In 1981, a passenger train carrying more than 800 passengers derailed and plunged into the river Bagmati while it was crossing a bridge. The estimates of total deaths range from 500 to 800 or more. In which Indian State did this accident take place?

QUESTION 2

The Firozabad rail disaster occurred in 1995 near Firozabad on the Delhi-Kanpur section of India's Northern Railway, when a passenger train collided with a train which had stopped after hitting an animal. It killed 358 people. Which animal was hit causing the accident? Name the two trains involved in the accident.

QUESTION 3

The largest single rail disaster in world history by death toll, with 1,700 fatalities or more, occurred when a crowded passenger train was destroyed on a coastal railway in Sri Lanka. What was the reason behind the accident?

QUESTION 4

Identify this 1980 Hindi film that tells the story of a train that catches fire on its inaugural run from New Delhi to Mumbai.

QUESTION 5

The Ciurea rail disaster occurred in 1917, during World War I. Most sources indicate the death toll as between 800 and 1,000. In which country did the Ciurea catastrophe take place?

Visual question:
Identify this image which is a remnant of a cyclone which submerged this town and overturned a passenger train killing all 200 passengers on board.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This country offered technical assistance setting up this institution which is continuously rated the best in India. **Ans: West Germany; IIT Madras**

2. This institute had C. V. Raman as it's first Indian director and has been named as the highest ranked university in India. **Ans: Indian Institute of Science**

3. This institute has been rated second among universities. Name the person who was its first vice-chancellor and the institute. **Ans: G. Parthasarathy; Jawaharlal Nehru University**

4. This college was named by it's founder after a lead character in a Shakespeare's play. Name the college and the founder. **Ans: Miranda House, Maurice Gwyer**

5. This institute's founding was made possible by a grant from the New Zealand. **Ans: All India Institute of Medical Sciences**

Visual: Identify this highly ranked institute's logo. **Ans: National Law School of India University**

Early Birds: C.Saravanan| Joseph Nelson| Indra Sharma| Vaishnavi Veeramani| Himanshu Verma

Word of the day

Agglomerate:
a collection of objects laid on top of each other; form into one cluster; clustered together but not coherent (used as a noun, verb and adjective)

Synonyms:
heap, pile, mound, cumulation, clustered

Usage: *The polymer is formed by an agglomerate of primary particles.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/agglomeratepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əˈglɒm(ə)ɹət/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Seeing India's energy transition through its States

Ashwini K. Swain
is at the Centre for Policy Research

Ann Josey
is at Prayas (Energy Group)

Shantanu Dixit
is at Prayas (Energy Group)

Bharath Jairaj
is at World Resources Institute India

In the upcoming G20 forum, India is planning to propose a multiple energy pathways approach to accommodate the diverse contexts and development trajectories of countries. The diversity of India's States, which necessitates multiple pathways, will determine its own domestic energy transition. India's global climate pledges – 50% non-fossil electricity generation capacity by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070 – are backed by domestic energy targets at the national level. Can these targets drive actions at the State level? How do we engage with State-level conditions and priorities?

States are critical actors in India's energy transition as there is a multi-tier governance of energy production and usage. An effective transition will require bridging the ambitions and implementation gaps between the Centre and the States. Simultaneously, national ambitions need to factor the varying incentive structures, processes, and institutional capacities at the State level.

Why States matter

India's achievements on its 2022 target for 175 GW renewable energy offer some insights into the complexities. While it achieved a significant portion of the target, only Gujarat, Karnataka, and Rajasthan met their individual targets. Moreover, about 80% of the current renewable energy capacity is confined to Six states in the west and south of India.

In a federal setting, States matter for four functions critical to energy transition. First, States as spheres of implementation are critical to the realisation of national targets. While the Centre may set goals, and use carrots and sticks to help achieve them, the realisation of these goals often depends on how they are aligned with State priorities and capabilities. Second, the legacy issues in the electricity sector, such as high losses, unreliable supply and service quality, if left addressed, could be exacerbated by the transition. These are embedded in the State political economy and must be addressed at the State level. Third, States as laboratories of policy innovations have been instrumental to India's energy transition. For example, early initiatives by Gujarat and Rajasthan on solar, and Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu on wind energy technologies, have contributed significantly to renewable energy uptake at the national level. Similarly, PM KUSUM is an adoption of successful State experiments on the solarisation of agriculture at a national scale. Fourth, States could also be roadblocks to national goals, particularly when the goals are perceived to be misaligned with State priorities.

While India has set laudable goals for its energy transition and has been working towards creating incentives and enforcement mechanisms, a critical next step is to engage with diverse State contexts, capabilities, and priorities. These are shaped by the interplay between multiple drivers, barriers, and enablers, including available techno-economic options, fiscal space, and social and political imperatives. In the context of energy transition, one such factor is cross-sectoral inter-linkages, constraints, and opportunities for transition. These inter-linkages are being recognised in the policy discourse. For example, there are analyses on how electric vehicle penetration and urbanisation will affect energy demand patterns or how promotion of transport modal shifts and green buildings can enable the energy transition.

These are steps in the right direction. However, an effective transition requires multi-scalar planning and execution strategy, consideration of inter-linkages and implications, and cross learning. Examples of such considerations include whether State targets add up to meet national goals, managing renewable energy-enabled load migration, the changing role of institutions, how these will affect legacy issues, and the resources required to deal with these implications.

States are important entry points to engage with policy visions, plans and actions. Central mandates to update the State Action Plans on Climate Change, recommendations to set up State-level steering committees for energy transitions, and regular meetings of the Central and state energy ministers reinforce the importance of States. Central agencies have also developed multiple indexes that rank States on different aspects of energy transition. While important, these efforts primarily focus on outcomes. We need to complement this with analysis of State-level preparedness for energy transition.

A State-level framework

As a complement to the techno-economic discourse, there is a need for a State-level framework to understand plans, actions, and governance processes towards an energy transition. Applying such a framework will enable an expedited transition in multiple ways. First, it helps to broaden the transition discourse from a narrow set of outcomes and to include the processes that shape the outcomes. Understanding the effects of transitions on transparency and accountability in processes, and affordability and reliability of services, particularly what works under what conditions, is crucial. Second, it leads to greater transparency which could enable participation of stakeholders in the processes and ensure public legitimacy and buy-in to complex decisions. Finally, seeing the energy transition through State preparedness would create a greater sensitivity to State-level diversities on priorities, capacities, and opportunities in the national policy discourse, and thus enable more evidence-based policy choices towards a pragmatic, yet accelerated, scale and pace of energy transition.

States are critical actors in India's energy transition as there is a multi-tier governance of energy production and usage

The LDF progress report

While the LDF has mostly avoided political trouble, it faces some challenges now

STATE OF PLAY

Biju Govind

Last month, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan released the progress report of the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government, highlighting its achievements over the last two years and emphasising its goal of raising the standard of living in Kerala to the level of middle-income countries in the developed world in the next 25 years. The government's ongoing development projects are bringing the State closer to this goal, he said.

In response to Mr. Vijayan's claims, the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, V.D. Satheesan, alleged that the LDF had not fulfilled even 100 out of the 600 promises in its 2016 election manifesto. He alleged that the progress report was filled with false claims. Promises such as the creation of 10 lakh new jobs and packages for Malabar, Kuttanad, Idukki, and Wayanad had not been kept, he said.

Leaving aside these claims and accusations, in the last two years, the CPI (M)-led Left government has managed to avoid significant political trouble despite facing allegations of corruption and nepotism in the bidding for big-ticket projects such as the AI-enabled traffic surveillance system in the State and the K-FON project aimed at providing free Internet for two million households. It has also been facing controversy over the sponsorship for the Loka Kerala Sabha meeting in New York to be attended by the Chief Minister. The absence of ideological clashes that marred past regimes of the Left government has given the present government a fertile ground to implement several projects. These include the widening of the highway connecting Thiruvananthapuram with Kasaragod, the GAIL pipeline project, and the Vizhinjam Port project.

The CPI(M) has also learned from its humiliating defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, when it won only one seat out of the 20 in Kerala, and seems prepared for the 2024 elections. On the other hand, the Congress is struggling as an Opposition party to effectively challenge the ruling dispensation as it is plagued by internal differences and factionalism.

But there are also issues confronting the government. The previous CPI(M)-led LDF government, also headed by Mr. Vijayan, performed admirably, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and won accolades. Breaking the State's long tradition of the incumbent government being unseated every five years, the Vijayan-led LDF stormed back to power. But many critics and political analysts believe that now there is an undercurrent of discontent against this government. The CPI(M) has failed to effectively counter the allegations raised against its government on various issues such as AI-enabled surveillance system and K-FON. This has given the impression that the Opposition is dictating the political discourse.

There are also some leadership challenges. In the first Pinarayi Vijayan Ministry, the then CPI(M) State Secretary, Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, had constructively evaluated and reviewed the government's performance. Balakrishnan passed away in 2022. The absence of his guidance has left a void in the party's leadership. Former Ministers T.M. Thomas Isaac, K. K. Shailaja, and A.K. Balan had also been in the forefront, fiercely defending the government's policies and decisions. But now a noticeable shift has occurred, with the current ministers exhibiting a weaker response to challenges such as the attack on doctors and the upcoming visit of Mr. Vijayan to the U.S.

Many seem confined to their respective departments and are battling to convincingly address such problems. This has cast a shadow of uncertainty over the government's ability to maintain the same level of efficiency as before. The CPI(M) State Secretary, M.V. Govindan, is learning the intricacies of balancing party policies and government programmes. Similarly, LDF convener E.P. Jayarajan, who is facing allegations of financial impropriety, has been struggling to restore public confidence in the face of the Opposition onslaught. The Chief Minister's popularity remains intact, which is why he has been on the public stage highlighting the achievements of his government.

Political analysts say the 2024 Lok Sabha polls provides another opportunity for the CPI(M) to consolidate its position in the State. But for that to happen, the party leadership must introspect, analyse both successes and failures and refine its strategies and approach. Only then can it navigate the changing currents of Kerala politics and earn the trust of the electorate.

China overtakes the U.S. in scientific research output

While there has been dispute over the best metrics with which to judge the quality of research output, China seems to be rising to the top in all of them

DATA POINT

Vasudevan Mukunth

For a long time, the U.S. led the world in the number of scientific research papers published and the number of citations that these papers racked up. While the volume of papers published by the researchers of a country alone doesn't imply a higher chance of winning a Nobel Prize, it still suggests the presence of a productive research establishment. This said, scholars have also devised ways to measure research output that also says something about its quality. On these measures too, the U.S. has been leading all other countries. But this dominance seems to be slipping.

For more than half a decade now, Chinese researchers, or researchers whose primary affiliation is a China-based institution, have been publishing more papers than those in the U.S. **Chart 1** shows the papers published in science and engineering conferences and peer-reviewed journals indexed in the *Scopus* database. India is currently third on this list.

Last month, China was found to have overtaken the U.S. on a metric designed to capture quality as well: the number of researchers or institutions whose papers received the most citations for papers in the 82 natural science journals tracked by *Nature Index* (**Chart 2**). India stood fifth on this list.

China upped its focus on science and technology and investments in it in 1976, as part of the 'Four Modernizations' programme. By 2015, it was spending 2.07% of its GDP on R&D. In 2018, it had more than 4 million scientific researchers within its borders – the world's highest – making the quantity of papers unsurprising.

Chart 3 shows the countries with the most 'Highly Cited Researchers', i.e., those whose papers received the most citations, after filtering and analysis by Clarivate Analytics, based on papers in the Web of Science database (including social sciences). It suggests that the quality question that dogged China's research output for a time may be fading now. India isn't in the top 10.

In 2018, the Chinese government announced a policy to crack down on scientific misconduct that, according to *Nature,* would penalise offending scientists with "loss of grants and awards" and restrict opportunities "outside academia". In 2020, it also reversed its policy to pay bonuses to researchers for publishing papers.

A notable feature of China's rise is the 'Thousand Talents' programme it launched in 2010. It incentivised accomplished research scholars to move to China, where they could receive large one-time bonuses, special research funds, priorities on grants, privileges on their visas (if they weren't Chinese), and help with housing.

A study published in January found that the 'Young' version of the scheme had brought many young scientists back to China but not people who had become leaders of their fields. One of the study's authors told *South China Morning Post* that this was due to bureaucratic intervention, nepotism, and China not being "at the global knowledge frontier yet".

The plan has also drawn suspicion. In 2018, the U.S. Justice Department began to probe researchers with ties to China. It found that Charles Lieber, a chemistry professor at Harvard University, had received money as part of the 'Thousand Talents' programme but hadn't disclosed it to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. He was convicted in 2021 and sentenced in April 2023.

Technological innovation has been at the heart of the development of modern China, so much so that its chief political ideology has been called 'techno-nationalism' (**Chart 4**). While China is well in the lead on patents filed, India is fourth.

Research report

The data for the charts has been collated from the U.S. National Science Board, *Nature Index*, Clarivate Analytics and the World Intellectual Property Organization

Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, is among the world's leading academic institutions for scientific research and is ranked no. 1 in China.

Chart 1: The chart shows the papers published in science and engineering conferences and peer-reviewed journals

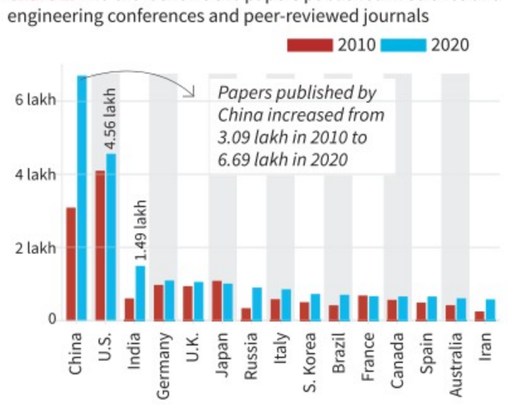


Chart 2: The chart shows the number of authors on *Nature Index* journal papers

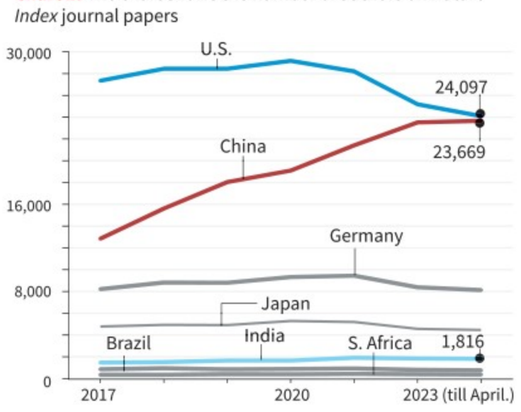


Chart 3: The chart shows the countries with the most 'Highly Cited Researchers' (y-axis in log scale)

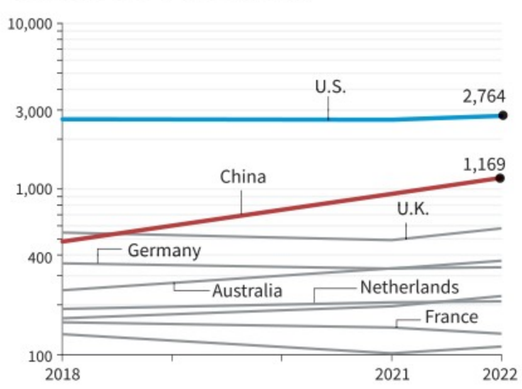
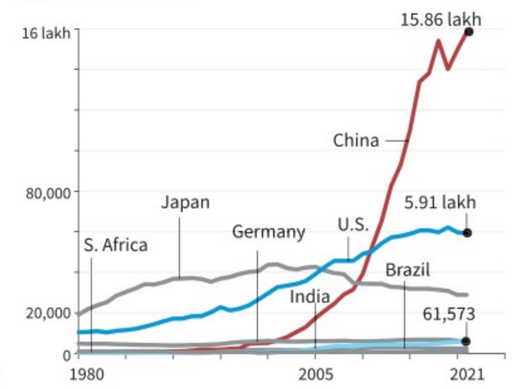


Chart 4: The chart shows the number of patent applications received



mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 7, 1973

Coarse cloth output declining

Ahmedabad, June 6: The Working Group appointed by the Union Government has commended immediate arrest of the declining trend in the production of coarse and medium varieties of cloth, by maintaining production at least at the existing level for the benefit of the weaker sections of society. The Group, which submitted its report to the Government recently, was appointed at a meeting of the Committee on Essential Commodities and Articles for Mass Consumption on March 8. The guidelines issued by the Group were released to the press here by the Gujarat Civil Supplies Minister, Mr. Sanat Mehta, yesterday. The three-member group, consisting of Mr. K. Kishore, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Mr. M. Satyapal, Additional Adviser, Planning Commission and Mr. S.E. Joseph, Director, Planning Commission, was to study all aspects of cloth production, procurement and distribution and suggest long and short-term measures for making available coarse and medium varieties of cloth to the common man at reasonable prices. The Group has suggested progressive increase in the annual production of mill-made varieties of cloth, from a mere 400 square million metres at present to 800-1,200 square million metres during the Fifth Plan period. The Group felt that the current situation regarding the retail distribution of controlled varieties of cloth at the State level was generally far from satisfactory in most of the States. A combination of agencies would perhaps be needed to be organised for this purpose.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 7, 1923

In Parliament

London, June 4: In the House of Commons questioned with regard to the recent decision of the United States debarring British Indians from becoming American citizens, Earl Winterton said that it was understood that in some States of the United States, British Indians would no longer be entitled to acquire ownership of leases of land. The India Office had received no complaints directly, but His Majesty's representative in the United States had brought the matter to the notice of the Foreign Office. The precise effect of the decision, particularly in regard to Indians who had already acquired rights of land, had still to be considered.

From Page One

CBI gathers evidence; 83 bodies yet to be claimed

"We are doing DNA samplings. If anyone comes at a later stage, he or she has to submit DNA samples and if samples match, the body will be handed over," he added.

The officials inspected the damaged coaches of the two passenger trains and inquired about the signalling system at the Bahanaga Bazaar railway station, given that preliminary findings have indicated that a signalling error may have been the cause of the collision. They sought the relevant documents and asked for data-logger records.

In Delhi, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw held multiple meetings with senior officials to review the rail safety measures being taken across the country. By Tuesday evening, more than 70 trains had passed through the tracks at the Bahanaga Bazaar station that were restored on Sunday night, under his personal supervision.

Earlier, based on a complaint from Sub-Inspector of Police Papu Kumar Naik, the First Information Report was registered at the Balasore Government Railway police station alleging that "negligence" led to the incident. "At present, culpability of specific railway employees is not ascertained, which will be unearthed during investigation," it said.

In the midst of the chaos, there have already been allegations of remains being wrongly identified or handed over. In some cases, there has allegedly been a mismatch between the number assigned to bodies and the photographs maintained by the State government. In other cases, there have been multiple claimants for a single body, or even bodies being handed over before the arrival of the rightful claimant. On Monday, four people staked their claim on one body at the AMRI Hospital. Two claimants later backed out, saying that they had made a mistake in identifying the photo, but two others submitted their DNA samples to see which of them had successfully found the remains of their departed kin. They are yet to receive the results.

Revised death toll

"After reconciling all these records, the district administration has submitted its final report pegging the death figure at 288. Of the 288 bodies, 95 bodies have been identified and handed over to kin. As many as 193 bodies have been sent to different mortuaries in Bhubaneswar. Out of 193, as many as 110 bodies have been identified at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar and other facilities, leaving 83 bodies to be handed over or identified," Mr. Jena added.

Mother, child burnt alive in Manipur

BSF constable Ranjit Yadav was killed at 4:15 a.m. on Tuesday, following a gunfight with Kuki "insurgent groups" at Serou-Sugnu in Kakching that lasted for more than 48 hours, the BSF said. Two Assam Rifles personnel were also injured in the incident. A resident of North 24 Parganas district in West Bengal, Mr. Yadav joined the force in 2008. He is survived by his parents, wife and a son. He was deployed at Serou Practical High School and was hit by a bullet to his chest during an exchange of fire with "Kuki miscreants".

Additional troops

Multiple incidents of violence, arson and firing in Sugnu and Serou necessitated the redeployment of additional troops over the past 48 hours, the Army said in a statement. The area is at a junction of Meitei and Kuki settlements. The additional troops were tasked with beefing up the ongoing extensive area domination operations, ambushes and measures to prevent arson and violence, the Army said.

During the operation, an "intermittent exchange of fire took place between security forces and insurgents during the night of June 5 and 6," the Army said. It added that security forces took adequate measures to prevent insurgents from "breaking contact" and running away to nearby areas. Two AK series rifles, one 51 mm mortar, two carbines, ammunition and warlike stores were recovered, the statement added.

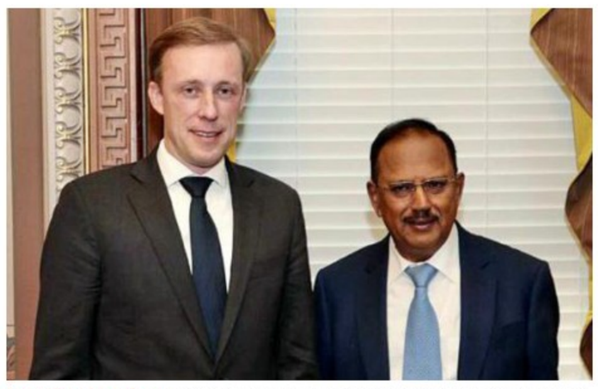
Hectic preparations on for PM's U.S. visit

Jake Sullivan arriving in New Delhi amid a flurry of meetings ahead of Narendra Modi's visit to New York and Washington later this month; the two sides are expected to finalise the agenda for the Prime Minister's trip, as well as the strategic and defence agreements they hope to sign or announce

Suhasini Haidar
Sriram Lakshman
NEW DELHI/LONDON

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan will visit India next week, for meetings with his Indian counterpart, Ajit Doval, and other officials, as part of a number of high-level meetings ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. later this month, sources confirmed.

The visit by Mr. Sullivan, seen as one of U.S. President Joseph Biden's key foreign policy point-persons, follows U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin's visit to Delhi on Monday, and Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra's visit to Washington on Tuesday, where he met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland. The two sides are expected to finalise the agenda for Mr. Modi's visit from June 21 to 24, as well as key strategic and defence agreements they hope to sign or announce during the State visit.



Reaffirming ties: India's National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval with his U.S. counterpart Jake Sullivan. FILE PHOTO

According to the sources, Mr. Sullivan will be in Delhi on July 13 and 14. Among the deals expected to see progress during Mr. Modi's visit are a major technology partnership for GE-414 jet engines to be assembled in India and other co-development plans under the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET). Mr. Doval had launched the iCET talks along with Mr. Sullivan in January, during a visit to the U.S. where the invitation for Mr. Modi's State visit was handed over to him.

The flurry of meetings included an unusual visit by the Prime Minister's close aide and Principal Secretary P.K. Mishra last month, who met with U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and USAID Administrator Samantha Power. The meetings indicated possible movement on trade issues between the two countries that had reached an impasse over the Donald Trump administration's decision to withdraw India's GSP (Generalised System of Preferences) special export status in 2019, and the shelved plans for Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks after Mr. Biden came to power.

However, the two sides have been hopeful of resolving tariff issues, and price caps on medical devices. In addition, they are likely to announce a number of "third country partnerships" to be headed by India and U.S. development agencies, possibly under the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

On Monday, the U.S. State Department smoothed over any concerns that Mr. Modi would have to face questions over the state of democracy in India after an extremely critical State Department report on religious freedom was released last month. A spokesperson for the administration, John Kirby, called India a "vibrant democracy" . "Anybody that ... happens to go to New Delhi can see that for themselves," Mr. Kirby said, adding that there would likely be discussions on the health of democratic institutions during the visit as take place between "friends".

'Stronger friendship'

Mr. Kirby added that Mr. Modi's visit was "really about advancing what is now and what we hope will be a deeper, stronger partnership and friendship going forward", and that India "matters" not just bilaterally to the U.S. but also multilaterally.

Plans for Mr. Modi's visit are still being finalised, but a large part of his itinerary is now falling into place, officials said. Mr. Modi will travel to New York first, to participate in a function for International Yoga Day on the lawns of the United Nations on June 21. He will fly to Washington that afternoon. On June 22, Mr. Modi will be given a ceremonial welcome at the White House in the morning, followed by a bilateral meeting. In the afternoon, he will address the joint session of the U.S. Congress, which he had also addressed in 2016.

"We are proud of our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership with the U.S., built upon the foundation of shared democratic values, strong people-to-people ties, and an unwavering commitment to global peace and prosperity," Mr. Modi tweeted on Monday, accepting the invitation to address the U.S. Congress.

In the evening of June 22, he will attend the State banquet hosted by Mr. Biden and his wife Jill Biden.

On June 23, Mr. Modi is expected to address a large gathering of the Indian diaspora at Washington's Kennedy Centre for Performing Arts. The two sides have also discussed the possibility of a short trip together outside Washington, possibly to Camp David, the U.S. President's official retreat.

Manipur govt. yet to take stand on adding Meiteis to ST list

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

As ethnic clashes continue between the Meiteis and the Kuki-Zomi people in Manipur, the State government is yet to take a position on whether the former should be given the Scheduled Tribe status, according to submissions made before a Division Bench of the Manipur High Court in Imphal on Tuesday.

The Division Bench of Justices Ahanthem Bimol Singh and A. Guneshwar Sharma on Tuesday heard the appeal against a March 27 single-judge Bench order of the High Court, which directed the State government to recommend Meiteis for inclusion on the ST list.

The Kuki-Zomi people and the Naga people in the State started protesting against this order as soon as it was made public on April 19.

After one such protest on May 3, the violence began in the State leaving more than 100 people dead, hundreds more injured and tens of thousands internally displaced.

The appeal being heard before the Division Bench has been filed by the All Manipur Tribal Union against the March 27 order.

The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry, represented through a Deputy Solicitor-General of India, informed the court on Tuesday that it would not be filing any objection against the appeal.

However, advocates representing the State government submitted that they needed more time before filing anything in court. The advocates submitted that they needed to take instructions from the State government on whether it wants to file an objection to the appeal.

MTU to file objection

Meanwhile, members of the Meitei Tribes Union, also arraigned as respondents, sought a week's time to file their objections to the appeal.

The MTU was the organisation that first approached the Manipur High Court, seeking a direction for their recommendation for inclusion on the ST list.

"We will be filing our objection to the appeal by next Monday," advocate Ajoy Pebam, who is representing members of the MTU, told *The Hindu*.

Senior counsel Colin Gonsalves and his team appeared for the All Manipur Tribals Union in the matter.

The High Court has listed the matter for the next hearing on June 15.

NCB arrests six after huge haul of LSD and marijuana

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) said here on Tuesday that it had made the largest seizure of LSD, a psychedelic drug, in the past two decades and arrested six members of a syndicate having links to countries such as the U.S., the Netherlands and Poland.

As many as 14,961 blots of LSD and 2.23 kg of imported curated marijuana were seized, the agency said. The accused, including a girl, were arrested during simultaneous searches in and around Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

NCB Deputy Director-General (Northern Range) Gyaneshwar Singh said the agency had been working on various leads to identify and dismantle the syndicate.

The agency received inputs about those dealing in LSD, which were being delivered using courier and postal service channels. To track the perpetrators, a special investigation team under the Delhi zonal unit was constituted and intensive technical and field surveillance operations were launched. The team zeroed in on a young man from Goa, a student in a Noida-based private university.

The Narcotics Control Bureau officials with those accused of selling LSD and marijuana in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

On interrogation, he disclosed that he had been ordering LSD on a private messaging application named "Wickr". Subsequently, a vendor operating through the same platform was identified. On May 29, the person was arrested in Delhi with 15 blots of LSD. He was trying to get the drug couriered to a client in Kashmir. The agency seized 650 additional blots from the vendor's residence.

At his instance, the NCB arrested a Delhi-based girl. Though no recoveries were made from her, her disclosures helped the agency trace her accomplice to Jaipur. He was arrested on May 30 and 9,006 LSD blots, 2.23 kg of marijuana and more than ₹4.65 lakh in cash was seized from his house.

The Jaipur-based vendor had ordered the LSD blots on the darknet and through Wickr. During interrogation, he said that a large consignment was going to be delivered in Pune. The contraband comprising 5,006 blots was intercepted in Bhosari. Later, two others were arrested from Noida and Kerala.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted: "Realising PM @narendramodi Ji's vision to create a drug-free India, the NCB has busted an international narcotics syndicate and seized 15,000 blots of LSD drug. I congratulate the NCB on this achievement."

Dhaka seeks clarification on 'Akhand Bharat' map

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Government of Bangladesh has instructed its mission here to contact the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) about the "Akhand Bharat" map placed in the new Parliament building. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam told journalists in Dhaka that the Awami League government is in the process of seeking clarification from India regarding the map that has drawn protest from Nepal and Pakistan as it shows the spread of ancient Indian kingdoms from the west to the east of the subcontinent that covers present-day India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. Mr. Alam's remarks came two days after the Leader of the Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party described the mural as a "threat to the freedom and sovereignty of Bangladesh".

"There is widespread anger over the map. There is no doubt about its installation. However, for further clarification, we have asked the mission in Delhi to speak to the Indian Ministry of External Affairs to find out what their official explanation is," said Mr. Alam who was quoted in *Dhaka Tribune*.

Add murder charges in IIT student death case, says HC

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday asked the police to add charges for murder in connection with the death of IIT-Kharagpur student Faizan Ahmed.

Justice Rajasekhar Mantha said that the time had come to add Section 302 and identify the accused. The court had directed a second post-mortem of the body. The Central Forensic Science Laboratory has asked one week to submit the viscera report.

The matter will come up for hearing on Friday.

Delhi Police visit Brij Bhushan's residence in Gonda to record statement of associates

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

A team of the Delhi Police has visited the residence of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh to investigate the sexual harassment charges against him, officers said on Tuesday.

They said the investigating police team had questioned roughly a dozen employees and associates of Mr. Singh, a six-time MP, and recorded their statements.

A special investigation team (SIT) is probing the two cases lodged against Mr. Singh – one based on the complaint lodged by six wrestlers and another one on the complaint of a minor wrestler under the Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act.

The minor wrestler, whose father had filed the police complaint, has reportedly withdrawn her allegations against Mr. Singh.

In May, the minor wrestler had recorded her statement before a Magistrate maintaining the charges in her father's complaint. In this case, the court will take a call as to which statement will remain valid and the facts behind both statements could be examined during the POCSO trial.

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

Earlier on Monday, the minor victim's father, however, had denied all reports of his daughter withdrawing her complaint against Mr. Singh.

Collective statement

A collective statement was issued by women and human rights organisations condemning the state repression and police atrocities on the wrestlers in their struggle for justice against sexual harassment.

"In POCSO, there is a presumption that the offence has been committed, especially after a statement in front of a Magistrate. Therefore, an arrest is imperative. Since the primary witnesses are minors, they are vulnerable to pressure. Despite these factors, the accused Brij Bhushan Singh enjoyed absolute impunity and was not arrested. The consequence of not making an immediate arrest has been that five weeks after the FIR was lodged, it is alleged that on June 2, a second statement was given by the minor to the Magistrate contradicting her original statement," the statement said.

The statement was signed by the All India Democratic Women's Association, All India Progressive Women's Association, All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan, Act Now for Harmony and Democracy and others.

Flight to U.S. diverted to Russia due to glitch

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Air India said on Tuesday that it would operate another plane on Wednesday to fly its passengers from Magadan Airport in Russia, where its Delhi-San Francisco flight was diverted due to a mid-air glitch in one of the engines.

All the passengers and crew have been accommodated in hotels in Magadan, Air India said.

APPEAL

Baby Muvishasri is 10 months old hailing from a poor family. She suffers from Atrial Septal Defect and needs Atrial Septal Defect Closure (Heart Surgery) at Public Health Centre, Chennai. She is in urgent need of Rs. 2 lakh for her surgery. We appeal to you to kindly contribute and bring back a new life. Any amount will go a long way in covering the cost. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c. No.: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **Women's Welfare Syndicate** is exempted under 80G IT **(Please do not mention patient name on the cheque)**.
All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org **WWS**

Accident probe team member now submits a note of disagreement

The Senior Section Engineer had earlier concurred with two-page report; he disagrees with the finding that the moveable rail at the accident spot was set for the loop line instead of the main line

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

A senior Indian Railways official who was part of the five-member inquiry committee which conducted a preliminary investigation into the circumstances that led to the train accident at the Bahanaga Bazaar railway station in Odisha has disagreed with certain findings.

According to sources, Senior Section Engineer A.K. Mahanta was among the five railway officials who conducted a spot inquiry and submitted a two-page report which concluded that a signalling error caused the accident.

Though he initially concurred with the four other officials and signed the findings that train number 12841 Coromandel Express entered the loop line, even as the signal was set to pass through the main line, and collided with a stationary goods train, Mr. Mahanta chose to retract later and recorded his disagreement on a couple of points.

Back to normal: Passengers inside the Coromandel Express as it leaves Bahanaga Bazaar station on Tuesday. PTI

The official claimed that he did not agree with the finding that Point (17A) was set for the loop line. "Based on observations from data logger report, the point [moveable rails] was set for normal side [main line]. It may be reserve after derailment," the official said.

Dissent note

Mr. Mahanta went on to add that the derailment occurred ahead of Level Crossing Gate No. 94, which was located before Point 17(A), thereby arguing that the accident took place even before switching to the loop line.

He recorded his dissent note on June 3, the same day he also signed the preliminary inquiry report, and gave it to the Section Controller, Kharagpur, the sources said.

The objections flagged by Mr. Mahanta have surfaced at a time when the CBI has registered a case and taken over the investigation into the devastating multiple collisions that left 288 passengers dead.

When contacted by *The Hindu*, a senior Railways officer ruled out the possibility of a train entering a loop line when the signal and point were set for passage through the main line. However, there had been instances of the point switching to the loop line when the signal was cleared for the main line. The data logger record would give a clear picture of signal, train movement and derailment, he said.

Unruffled by communal ploys, quietly serving the victims of the deadly crash

Maitri Porecha
BAHANAGA BAZAAR

While miscreants on social media try to paint the devastating triple-train accident in Odisha in a communal colour, Tukna Das, 45, is quietly involved in manual labour at a temple next to the collision site.

A day after the June 2 accident, various social media handles claimed that there was a mosque near the accident site.

However, what was being portrayed as a mosque is actually the Bahanaga ISKCON temple. It is a partially constructed temple. Mr. Das works there as a mason.

Every day, after work, Mr. Das would sit on the terrace of the temple and watch trains pass by. On the fateful night, he says he saw the Coromandel Express colliding with the goods train. "It felt like there was a huge blast," he told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Das said he and his friends rushed to the accident spot with water bottles around 7 p.m. and started locating people using their mobile phone lights. "We fed water to some of the victims and rescued a few of those who had lost limbs but still could be ferried to the ambulance and then rushed them to the hospitals. I took out nearly 13 people from the mangled remains in two hours," Mr. Das recounted.

Help at hand: A view of the Bahanaga ISKCON temple near the accident site in Balasore district of Odisha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

After the accident, the temple became a place to rest and recoup for the victims, the National Disaster Response Force personnel, the railway officials and volunteers. "It is the peak of summer, and the dangers of dehydration and sunstroke run high. Since June 2, we are doing *sewa* and are continuously feeding people at site. On June 3, 400 people had food here, and on June 4, nearly 1,000 people were fed. On June 5, another 200 to 300 people had food," said Chaitan Chandra Das, 76, president, ISKCON Gadei Giri, who is coordinating relief efforts.

He said a group of people were trying to spread fake news about the temple structure in a bid to disturb communal harmony. "It is nonsense."

CBI probe is headline management, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The decision to hand over the investigation of the Balasore train accident to the CBI was part of the Narendra Modi government's strategy of "headline management" to divert attention from its own failures, the Congress alleged on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate asked why no accountability had been fixed even 96 hours after the accident. "How is it that there is no accountability, no responsibility. Instead of finding out what caused this grave accident in which almost 300 people died, the government is now spinning conspiracy theories. It is shifting focus from safety to all kinds of conspiracy theories like deliberate interference," Ms. Shrinate said.

At a time when the Railway Minister should resign by taking moral responsibility, new theories were being created to "divert" attention, she said.

GDP, GST numbers can't hide economic distress: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday said no amount of headline management with GDP numbers and GST revenues can hide the economic distress faced by a majority of Indians, as it cited a surge in demand for work under the MGNREGS.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the only time the demand for work under MGNREGS was more was during the pandemic, reflecting the economic plight in rural India.

Party is united, Pilot not floating new outfit: Cong.

Mohammed Iqbal
JAIPUR

Just days after a truce between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy, Sachin Pilot, was announced in New Delhi, speculation is rife about Mr. Pilot planning to float a new political outfit.

However, two of Mr. Pilot's loyalists denied the claim and said he had no intention of leaving the Congress.

The Congress's State unit maintained there was no divisions within the party and preparations for the Assembly election were under way with the rank and file standing together. However, there is speculation that Mr. Pilot may announce the launch of a new party on June 11 – his father Rajesh Pilot's death anniversary – in Dausa.

Sachin Pilot

Minister of State for Agricultural Marketing Murari Lal Meena termed the speculation baseless.

"We are all soldiers of Congress... We will fight [elections] together. Mr. Pilot has no intention of leaving the Congress party," he said.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge for Rajasthan Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa told reporters in Jaipur on Tuesday that the party had "devised a formula" to accommodate Mr. Pilot following the truce announced in New Delhi.

Chargesheet reveals alleged chats between Amruta Fadnavis and bookie

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The chargesheet filed by the Mumbai Police in the Amruta Fadnavis bribery-extortion case has revealed alleged WhatsApp conversations between the wife of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and cricket bookie Anil Jaisinghani and his daughter Anishka.

In one of the chats, Mr. Jaisinghani told Ms. Fadnavis that he had a recording of her saying, "Make MVA [Maha Vikas Aghadi] fall and trap Eknath Shinde [Chief Minister] and Anil Parab [Uddhav faction leader]".

As per a complaint filed by Ms. Fadnavis on February 20, Ms. Jaisinghani threatened to make Ms. Fadnavis's voice notes and video clips public if she did not pay her ₹10 crore and get her father's name cleared of all charges. She also offered a bribe of ₹1 crore to Ms. Fadnavis to clear her father's name in several cases, which was turned down. The duo was arrested on March 16. Ms. Jaisinghani was granted bail on March 27.

Submarine deal can be a flagship project, says German Minister

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India and Germany discussed the progress of a deal for the procurement of six advanced conventional submarines by the Indian Navy under Project-75I, visiting German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said on his talks with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh while making a strong pitch for German company Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS).

Seeking concrete cooperation projects, he said the submarine deal could become a "flagship project" while stating they wanted to intensify military cooperation with other branches of the Navy and the Air Force.

On Tuesday, the two Ministers held talks during which Mr. Singh called for German investments in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu defence corridors. This is the first visit of a German Defence Minister to India since 2015.

Six submarines

"We are talking about a deal by TKMS, about six submarines, but of course the procedure is not finished yet but I think the German industry is at a good place in the race," Mr. Pistorius said speaking to accompanying German media in Delhi. "The German defence industry, especially manufacturers, have an excellent reputation. But, of course, there are competitors, and that's no secret. And it will be a question of who will prevail? It's the same with us. And the armaments companies too."

Boris Pistorius

He said they supported the "Make in India" initiative and it has to be organised between companies on both sides. "Of course, my role is not that I sign contracts or bring them with me, but that I say that we, as the federal government, support the work of our defence industry and we will continue to do so in the future," he stated adding that his impression is that their position can be rated as quite promising.

'Kharge, Sonia should clarify stand on cow slaughter ban'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Parshottam Rupala on Tuesday asked the Congress if it wanted to start its term in Karnataka with a nod to cow slaughter, amid reports that the Siddaramaiah goverment may revisit the law banning it in the State.

Mr. Rupala, who addressed a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on nine years of the Narendra Modi government, said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Sonia Gandhi should clarify their stand on the issue.

Karnataka Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh recently said the State government may revisit the anti-cow-slaughter law. Asked about it, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the Cabinet would discuss the matter.

Mr. Rupala said once the Congress government took a stand, the Union government would take cognisance of the issue.

He said the development had brought to the fore "the mindset of the Congress".

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Trivandrum — **Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited**

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Date: 07.06.2023 — **General Manager**
Place: Delhi — Emerging Markets

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT
No.MD/ACCTS-WK-R-4/2022/731 Date: 02/06/2023
Second Corrigendum to e-Tender Call Notice (e-TCN) No. : MD/ACCTS-WK-R-4/2022/499 dt. 19/04/2023
Name of the Work : "Supply of 01 No.60 Ton Bollard Pull Tug along with Manning crew on Hire for Marine Operation at SPMs and inside Harbour at Paradip for a period of seven years". Estimated Cost put to tender: ₹ 75,48,71,148/-. With reference to above e-tender, revised tender document has been published in the e-procurement website with extension. Last date & time of submission of bids through on-line bidding is 15:00 hours on Dt.26.06.2023. Technical Bids shall be opened at 16:00 hours on Dt.27.06.2023. For details, please log on to the **Website : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app .**
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DELHI-110035 Phone: 011-27394876 Email: eecdr3@gmail.com

NIT NO.06 (2023-24) (Re-invitation)

S. No.	Name of work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Non-Refundable Tender processing fee (Rs)	Date of Release of Tender/Tender Id.	Last date / time of receipt of tender
1	Construction of chambers for House Sewer Connections for Sant Nagar GOC falling under Coronation Pillar Catchment area in Delhi.	63,33,03,190/-	73,33,100/-	Rs. 1500/-	02.06.2023 / 2023_DJB_242242_1	23.06.2023 upto 3:00 P.M

Further details in this regard can be seen at **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**.
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Advt. No. J.S.V. 55 (2023-24) — **EE(C) DR-III**

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग खण्ड, खेतड़ी
क्र.सं.: 406-11 — दिनांक: 30.05.2023
निविदा संशोधन सूचना संख्या 22 वर्ष 2022-23
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 6552-63 दिनांक 31.03.2023 एवं संशोधित कार्यालय आदेश क्रमांक 121 दिनांक 19.04.2023 161-166 दिनांक 26.04.2023, 261-266 दिनांक 04.05.2023, 270-275 दिनांक 08.05.2023, 301 दिनांक 11.05.2023 एवं 312-318 दिनांक 16.05.2023 द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 22 वर्ष 2022-23 में जिसकी निविदा जमा करवाने एवं निविदा को खोलने की तिथि 31.05.2023 थी। उक्त निविदा में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है:-

विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित दिनांक एवं समय	संशोधित दिनांक एवं समय
निविदा जमा की तारीख	31.03.2023 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 31.05.2023 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक	31.03.2023 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 07.06.2023 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की तारीख	31.05.2023 सायं 5.00 बजे	07.06.2023 सायं 05.00 बजे

NIB No. PWD2223A5063
UBN No. 1. PWD2223WSOB20527, 2. PWD2223WSOB20528, 3. PWD2223WSOB20529, 4. PWD2223WSOB20530, 5. PWD2223WSOB20531, 6. PWD2223WSOB20532, 7. PWD2223WSOB20533, 8. PWD2223WSOB20534
निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
DIPR/C/8024/2023 — **अधिशासी अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि.,खण्ड खेतड़ी**

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, MAHARASHTRA

No./AMC/PMAY/2023/70 — **Date: 05-06-2023**

E-Tender Notice

Municipal Commissioner invites Proposal (RFP) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (U) (PMAY) vertical no.3 for affordable housing project in Public Private Partnership mode on Govt. Land based model No.5 (DROH) at below Locations. Details regarding said work is available on https://www.mahatenders.gov.in from date 05/06/2023 to 23/06/2023

Sr.No.	Locations	Tender ID	Tender Fee	EMD
1	Sundarwadi Gut No.9,10	2023_AMCA_912350_1	Rs. 11,800/-	Rs. 50.00 Lakhs
2	Tisgaon Gut No. 225/1	2023_AMCA_912361_1	Rs. 11,800/-	Rs. 50.00 Lakhs
3	Tisgaon Gut No. 227/1	2023_AMCA_912387_1	Rs. 11,800/-	Rs. 50.00 Lakhs
4	Padegaon Gut No.69	2023_AMCA_912409_1	Rs. 11,800/-	Rs. 22.70 Lakhs

जा.क्र./मनपा/PMAY/2023/70
दि.०५/०६/२०२३

Sd/-
Commissioner and Administrator
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत चूरू
क्रमांकः 513-522 — दिनांकः 30.05.2023
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 06/2023-24
इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से जिला चूरू में मिसिंग लिंक/ नॉन पेचेबल व स्थानीय निकायों व अन्य सड़क कार्य (मय पांच वर्ष के दोष निवारण व सुधार अवधि) कुल 22 पैकेजों हेतु अनुमानित लागत राशि रू. 5689.73 लाख की ऑनलाईन निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। कार्य के निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 20.06.2023 (मंगलवार) सायं 6.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन अपलोड करना आवश्यक होगा। उक्त निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण राज्य सरकार के प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व विभागीय वेबसाईट http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते है।
NIB No.: PWD2324A0701
यू.बी.एन नं.:- PWD2324WSOB03189, PWD2324WSOB03190, PWD2324WSOB03191, PWD2324WSOB03192, PWD2324WSOB03193, PWD2324WSOB03194, PWD2324WSOB03195, PWD2324WSOB03196, PWD2324WSOB03197, PWD2324WSOB03198, PWD2324WSOB03199, PWD2324WSOB03200, PWD2324WSOB03201, PWD2324WSOB03202, PWD2324WSOB03203, PWD2324WSOB03204, PWD2324WSOB03205, PWD2324WSOB03206, PWD2324WSOB03207, PWD2324WSOB03208, PWD2324WSOB03209, PWD2324WSOB03210
DIPR/C/7874/2023 — **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत चूरू**

INBRIEF

Indigenous heavyweight torpedo successfully tested

The Navy test-fired an indigenously designed and developed heavyweight torpedo, *Varunastra*, with a live warhead against an undersea target on Tuesday. "Induction of *Varunastra* has begun after extensive trials and will become the mainstay of anti-submarine torpedo for all Naval warships," a defence source said. It will replace the older torpedoes on all naval ships that can fire a heavyweight torpedo, they added. *Varunastra* is a ship-launched anti-submarine torpedo and was designed and developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory in Visakhapatnam under the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Gauhati HC quashes Nagaland govt. ban on sale of dog meat

The Kohima Bench of the Gauhati High Court has quashed a three-year-old Nagaland government order that put a blanket ban on the commercial import and trading of dogs and sale of dog meat in markets and dine-in restaurants. The judgment was passed on June 2 after Justice Marli Vankun heard a petition by three persons who supplied and sold dog meat in Nagaland before the ban was enforced. Observing that consumption of dog meat appears to be an accepted norm among Nagas, it said the impugned notification was liable to be set aside, though it was said to have been passed in accordance with a Cabinet decision.

Driver halts bus for Muslim passengers to pray, suspended

A driver and a co-driver of the Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) were suspended and terminated from service respectively on Monday, after they halted their Delhi-bound bus for five extra minutes to allow two Muslim passengers to offer *namaz* on Sunday. Some passengers travelling on the bus lodged a complaint the UPSRTC. They alleged that, on the request of the Muslim passengers, the driver stopped the bus in an isolated place with the passengers getting down from the bus and offering *namaz*. Other passengers in the bus suffered inconvenience, they said.

India played key role during pandemic: Jeremy Farrar

Jeremy Farrar, Chief Scientist of the World Health Organization, said on Tuesday that India had played a critical role in science and technology, development of vaccines, manufacturing of drugs, diagnostics, and therapeutics during the pandemic. "The world is a very complicated place now. It's tense," he said at the conclusion of the G-20 Health Working Group meeting in Hyderabad. Speaking at the meeting, S. Aparna, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, noted that asymmetry of information, the lack of availability of critical materials, low attention to certain products needed by small patient populations all need urgent attention.

508 districts in country are free of manual scavenging: Ministry report

Centre has maintained in recent Parliament sessions that there are no manual scavenging deaths and attributed those to 'hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks'; Budget makes no allocation for manual scavengers rehabilitation scheme

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Despite stating over the past few years that manual scavenging had been eliminated in the country and the only remaining threat was the hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks, the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry has now said that only 508 of the 766 districts in the country have been declared free of manual scavenging.

The data were revealed in a booklet the Ministry has prepared to outline its achievements in the nine years of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre. In almost every Parliament session in the past two years, the Ministry had denied manual scavenging deaths in the country. These deaths have been attributed to "hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks".

Senior Ministry officials have differentiated manual scavenging from the hazardous cleaning of sewers, maintaining that the surveys conducted in 2013 and 2018 identified all existing manual scavengers (nearly 58,000) and hence, manual scavenging no longer existed in the country.

In the deep: Senior Ministry officials have differentiated manual scavenging from hazardous cleaning of sewers. FILE PHOTO

However, while releasing the booklet, the Ministry listed this as one of the achievements: "508 districts have reported themselves as manual scavenging-free."

Responding to a direct question on why the other districts had not reported themselves as manual scavenging-free, Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar said: "Whatever information has been received from the States, municipal bodies – all have said manual scavenging does not take place any more. They have all identified collectively over 58,000 manual scavengers... whoever has decided to do something else on their own, we are connecting them to skills training centres."

According to the scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers, the 58,000 identified sewer workers have been given a one-time cash payout of ₹40,000 each. In addition, around 22,000 of them have been connected to skills training programmes. Subsidies and loans are available to any of them wishing to set up their own business, Dr. Kumar said. "We want to make manual scavenging deaths zero," he said.

However, the scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers has now been merged with the NAMASTE scheme for 100% mechanisation of sewer work. The Union Budget for 2023-24 showed ₹100-crore allocation for the NAMASTE scheme and no allocation for the rehabilitation scheme.

On the scheme for mechanisation, Dr. Kumar said that collaboration was ongoing with other Ministries, and that the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry was doing the bulk of work in the current phase. The guidelines for this scheme are yet to be finalised, according to the Ministry. The scheme will require over 4,800 urban local bodies across the country to identify and profile all septic tank/sewer workers in their respective areas, provide them occupational training and safety equipment, and sign them up for health insurance under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, among other interventions.

To incentivise mechanisation, the scheme also provides for capital subsidies for workers willing to mechanise their work and become empanelled with the local body concerned.

Stones thrown at wedding procession of Dalit man

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Stones were thrown at the wedding procession of a Dalit man in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh on Monday.

It is alleged that a crowd of those from another caste, said to be dominant in the village, had objected to the procession and the groom riding a horse.

Superintendent of Police Amit Sanghi said the police reached Chourai village, and the procession and other programmes were conducted safely.

A video has also emerged in which a police officer is seen assuring the man that he would be provided cover and was free to take any route that he wished.

Mr. Sanghi said that police officers sustained minor injuries. A case was registered against 50 persons, he added.

Reacting to the incident, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath accused the ruling BJP of failing to protect the Dalit people in the State.

Puja held in J&K to push for corridor to PoK

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A special prayer, headed by seer Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Mahaswamiji, was held at the Maa Sharda Devi Temple in Teetwal village of Kupwara, located near the Line of Control (LoC), on Monday. It was held in a bid to push for the revival of the Sharda Peeth corridor to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The *Prana Pratishtha* ceremony at the temple was attended by seers and Kashmiri Pandits. The Save Sharda Committee, Kashmir has been demanding a corridor for Hindu pilgrims who intend to pay obeisance at the Sharda Peeth temple in PoK. "We intend to put pressure on both the countries to allow religious pilgrimage between J&K and PoK," panel chairman Ravinder Pandita said. "Let people from PoK travel to Hazratbal in Srinagar and Hindus be allowed to visit the Sharda Peeth temple", he said.

Tensions brewing in Uttarakashi after alleged bid to abduct minor girl

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The police in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand are working to enforce law and order in the area witnessing communal tensions after an alleged bid to abduct a minor girl. Two young people were accused in the May 26 incident. A first information report was lodged against them under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, on the complaint of the girl's family, and they were sent to jail the same day.

However, the Devbhoomi Raksha Abhiyan has allegedly pasted posters across the district asking Muslims, the minority community in the area, to leave the town over the incident. The right-wing group will be holding a mahapanchayat on June 15. Darshan Bharti, its founder, denied pasting posters, but said it had called for the mahapanchayat. "I am meeting people across town and urging them not to give their houses and shops on rent to people from the Muslim community. Almost 50% of them agreed with me," said Mr. Bharti, who calls himself Swami.

> The final call on the mahapanchayat will be taken by the district administration but currently, the situation is under control
>
> **V. MURUGESAN**
> ADGP, Law and Order

In May, the group held a State-wide protest and forced the cancellation of the wedding of the daughter of the Pauri Garhwal BJP leader Yashpal Rawat and a Muslim man.

Muslim traders have allegedly been forced to keep their shops shut, hampering business. Some unidentified people have put a cross mark outside shops run and owned by the community members, and protests were organised urging people to boycott them. The protests, which started from the Purola block, where the incident took place, has now spread to areas such as Barkot and Chinyalisaur, and is supported by other right-wing organisations such as the Bajrang Dal, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Bhairav Sena.

V. Murugesan, Additional Director-General of Police, Law and Order, said that an alert had been issued in the district. "The final call on the mahapanchayat will be taken by the district administration, but currently, the situation is under control," he said. The police, on Tuesday, got the posters removed. Representatives of the shops forced to shut met the sub-divisional magistrate (Barkot), Devanand Sharma, and requested the administration for help.

Modi's school to be developed as a model institution

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government is also developing an archaeological museum in Vadnagar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first school in his hometown, Vadnagar, in Mehsana district of Gujarat is being developed as a model school called Prerna to inspire youth of the country to become "catalysts of change".

Prerna, which means inspiration, is being developed as an "experiential" school, top government sources said, adding that it is envisioned to be a school of the future but with focus on values imparted using various techniques and technologies.

First batch

The first batch is to graduate next year. Two students each from the more than 750 districts of the country would be selected to spend around a week in the school, the sources said, adding that at any time, 30 students from 15 districts would be at the school, which has eight classrooms.

The building, constructed in the late 19th century, has been extensively restored.

The Union Culture Ministry, along with the Gujarat government, is also developing a state-of-the-art archaeological museum in the ancient town. The museum will showcase the development of the town through the lens of seven cultural periods in a span of 2,500 years. It will also offer a walkway through the excavated site.

The effort is to complete the work by October. The approximately ₹200 crore required to develop the museum will be borne by the Union Culture Ministry.

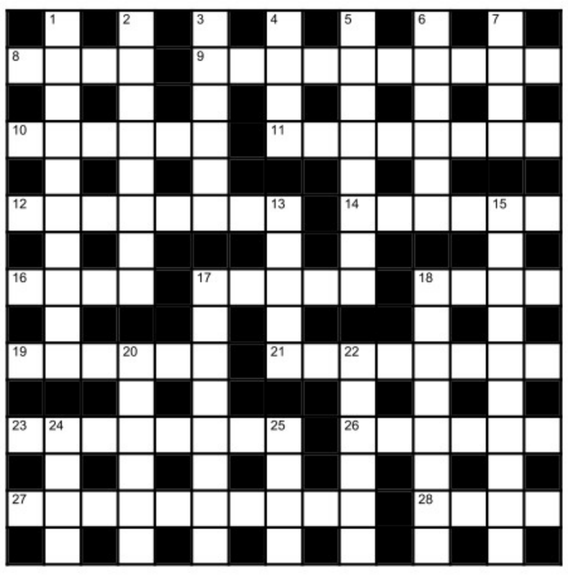
The Gujarat government has roped in several institutions to carry out research in the town.

TH CROSSWORD + 13885

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Lady (not wife!) in country (4)
9 Altered Korean list for bulk carriers (3,7)
10 Virginia permits personal assistants (6)
11 Rat spreads drink around salver (8)
12 So daters danced and mixed? (8)
14 Right, that's right in Spain, in America and in Eurasian country (6)
16 Kakinada man's oldest male ancestor? (4)
17 Quick! Encircle head of police in surprise attack (5)
18 Royal Air Force gets initial tender for rudimentary floating platform (4)
19 Note: Iron oxide is included in slices of a solid body (6)
21 Not hot weather aboard ship... get some items of warm clothing (8)
23 Donkey carries top quality old mineral which is a health hazard (8)
26 Heartlessly, water is poured on one unknown character's glandular secretion (6)
27 Prohibit butter and German island's fish (10)
28 After end of June, Yankee and daughter take possession of log base and saw (4)

Down

1 Bachelor in Madras moving around south and getting Oscar becomes country's representative abroad (10)
2 Curiously Romeo follows insect in lobby (8)
3 English county stored wrongly (6)
4 Block some ladies and boys at first (4)
5 Exchanged a beret thrown to cover redhead next to duke (8)
6 Actor Connery collects king's daggers (6)
7 Press egg (4)
13 Cheats titled men by substituting king with pawn (5)
15 Enrages Inuit... fears disorder (10)
17 At once, materiel is arranged (4-4)
18 Gave back broken red tuner (8)
20 Liquor produced by that lady is carried by Southern Railway (6)
22 Personal shutter? (6)
24 Returning fuel in America around noon results in problem (4)
25 Despatched son with ward (4)

SUDOKU

8			4		1			
	6			5				7
3	4						1	
				6		5	7	3
6	7	1		2				
	3						8	9
4				7			6	
			5		2			4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS5822 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	9	6	1	3	5	2	4
2	4	1	7	9	5	6	8	3
5	6	3	4	8	2	1	9	7
4	5	7	1	2	9	3	6	8
9	3	8	5	4	6	2	7	1
6	1	2	8	3	7	9	4	5
1	7	6	9	5	8	4	3	2
8	2	5	3	6	4	7	1	9
3	9	4	2	7	1	8	5	6

FAITH

Sacredness of cows

The Sanskrit word for a cow is 'gauhu' – it simply means that which walks. But it is a word that is special to cows, even though all animals walk. Just as bulls helped people move because bullock carts were a means of transportation - this is another reason for the use of the word 'gauhu', indicating movement. It is said that if a person gives cows as daana, he can walk to svarga. So here again, movement is involved, and hence the use of the word 'gauhu' for the cow, Velukkudi Krishnan said in a discourse.

Maaheyi is a reference to the calf of a cow. The cow mother is worshipped, and hence the calf gets this name. Arjunee means a white cow. Kapila is the word used to refer to the cow which must be brought near the sanctum sanctorum during Visvaroopa darshan in Vishnu temples. Fresh, unboiled milk is the first offering made to the deity. The bull is the vahana of Lord Siva. Thus the cow is sacred to both Saivites and Vaishnavites.

Vasistha owned a cow called Sabalaa, which could give anything that Vasistha sought from her. Visvamitra wanted this cow, and Vasistha's refusal to give it to him was cause of the disagreements between them. Agni, gold, ghee, the Sun, water, and cows are said to be symbols of auspiciousness.

Some of the different words used for a cow in Sanskrit are saurabheya, usraa, mahendri, rohini, ijyaa, dhenu, aghnya, bhadraa, kalyani, paavani, gauri, surabhi, anadvaahee, bahula, mahee, sarasvati, usriya, aditi and jagati.One gets the benefits of performing many yagas through 'go daana'. The Bhavishya Purana says that going a round a cow once is equivalent to circumambulating the Earth.

STRASBOURG

European court condemns Russia over poisoning of Navalny in 2020

AP

Europe's top rights court condemned Russia for failing to probe the 2020 poisoning of Opposition figure Alexei Navalny which the West calls an assassination bid. The European Court of Human Rights said Russia failed "to explore charges of a political motive for the attempted murder, as well as involvement of state agents". AFP

RIYADH

Iran reopens its long-shut Saudi Arabia embassy after 7-year gap

AFP

Iran reopened its embassy in Saudi Arabia after a seven-year closure, reaffirming a Chinese-brokered rapprochement. The Iranian mission resumes in its former premises in Riyadh's diplomatic quarter — near Syria's embassy, which is also expected to reopen soon following Saudi outreach to Damascus. AFP

DHAKA

'Armies of Bangladesh and India should strengthen cooperation'

PTI

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the Armies of Bangladesh and India should strengthen their ties and suggested international peacekeeping operations as a new area for bilateral cooperation. She made these remarks when visiting Indian Army chief Gen Manoj Pande paid a courtesy call at her residence. PTI

DUBAI

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrives in Saudi Arabia

AFP

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Saudi Arabia on a trip in which he plans to meet Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Blinken's trip, his second to Riyadh since becoming U.S.'s top diplomat, comes after the kingdom under the Prince has been more willing to disregard the U.S. in making own decisions. AP

Russia admits to troops being killed by Kyiv in attacks

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia said on Tuesday dozens of its soldiers were killed when repelling a long-awaited Ukrainian offensive, a rare admission of losses among Moscow's forces.

"For three days, the Ukrainian regime has launched a long-promised offensive in different sectors of the front," Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said.

"In total, 71 servicemen were killed and 210 were wounded," he stated.

On Monday, Russia said it repelled a "large-scale offensive" while Ukraine praised successes in and around the eastern city of Bakhmut.

In Tuesday's statement, Mr. Shoigu said Ukrainian forces had attempted attacks from five different directions on Sunday, and from seven different directions on Monday.

"The enemy did not achieve its goals, but suffered significant and incomparable losses," Mr. Shoigu said.

Frontline dam blown up in Kherson; Russia, Ukraine blame each other

Homes, streets and businesses flooded downstream; emergency crews begin evacuations in both Russia and Ukraine-held areas; officials race to check cooling systems at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant; water supplies to Crimea may be hit

Associated Press
KYIV

The wall of a major dam in southern Ukraine collapsed on Tuesday, triggering floods, endangering Europe's largest nuclear power plant and threatening drinking water supplies as both sides in the war scrambled to evacuate residents and blamed each other for the destruction.

Ukraine accused Russian forces of blowing up the Kakhovka dam and hydroelectric power station on the Dnipro rOiver in an area that Moscow controls, while Russian officials blamed Ukrainian bombardment in the contested area. It was not possible to verify the claims.

The potentially far-reaching environmental and social consequences of the disaster quickly became clear as homes, streets and businesses flooded downstream and emergency crews began evacuations; officials raced to check cooling systems at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant; and authorities expressed concern about supplies of drinking water to the south in Crimea, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014.

Marooned land: A partially flooded area of Kherson on Tuesday following damage sustained at the Kakhovka hydel dam. AFP

Both Russian and Ukrainian authorities brought in trains and buses for residents. About 22,000 people live in areas at risk of flooding in Russian-controlled areas, while 16,000 live in the most critical zone in Ukrainian-held territory, according to official tallies. Neither side reported any deaths or injuries.

New dimension

The dam break added a stunning new dimension to Russia's war in Ukraine, now in its 16th month. A widely anticipated Ukrainian counter offensive seen to be under way along more than 1,000 km of the front line in the east and south.

It was not immediately clear whether either side benefits from the damage to the dam, since both Russian-controlled and Ukrainian-held lands are at risk. The damage could also hinder Ukraine's counteroffensive in the south and distract its government, while Russia depends on the dam to supply water to Crimea.

Although Kyiv officials claimed Russia blew up the dam to hinder the counteroffensive, observers note that crossing the broad Dnipro would be extremely challenging for the Ukrainian military. Other sectors of the front line are more likely avenues of attack, analysts say.

Experts have previously said the dam was in disrepair, which could also have led to the breach. Authorities, experts and residents have expressed concern for months about water flows through – and over – the Kakhovka dam. After heavy rains and snow melt last month, water levels rose beyond normal levels, flooding nearby villages. Satellite images showed water washing over damaged sluice gates.

Amid official outrage, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he convened an urgent meeting of the National Security Council. He alleged Russian forces set off a blast inside the dam structure at 2:50 a.m. and said about 80 settlements were in danger. Mr. Zelensky said in October his government had information that Russia had mined the dam and power plant. But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called it "a deliberate act of sabotage by the Ukrainian side... aimed at cutting water supplies to Crimea".

Both sides warned of a looming environmental disaster. Ukraine's Presidential Office said some 150 tonnes of oil escaped from the dam machinery and that another 300 tonnes could still leak out.

The Russian-installed mayor of occupied Nova Kakhovka, Vladimir Leontyev, said it was being evacuated as water poured into the city.

China, Russia conduct air patrol over Sea of Japan, East China Sea

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

South Korea said four Russian and four Chinese military aircraft had entered its air defence identification zone

China and Russia conducted joint air force patrols over the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea on Tuesday, as South Korea said it had deployed fighter jets in response to warplanes near its airspace.

Beijing and Moscow "staged the sixth joint aerial patrol in accordance with an annual military cooperation plan between China and Russia", the Chinese Defence Ministry said in a statement.

No further details

The statement gave no further details of the manoeuvres, which took place over waters bordering Japan, the Korean peninsula and Taiwan.

South Korea said four Russian and four Chinese military aircraft had entered its air defence identification zone (ADIZ) around lunchtime on Tuesday, prompting it to scramble fighter planes.

An ADIZ is an area wider than a country's airspace in which it tries to control aircraft for security reasons, but the concept is not defined in any international treaty.

Tactical steps

The South Korean military "identified the Chinese and Russian jets before their entry into the air identification zone", Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said.

"We deployed air force fighters to conduct tactical steps in preparation in case of an emergency," it added.

The eight foreign jets did not violate Seoul's airspace, the JCS said.

The incident comes after the Defence Ministers of South Korea, Japan and the U.S. on Saturday agreed to set up real-time data sharing on North Korean missile launches by the end of the year.

U.K. govt. and media in collusion: Prince Harry

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Prince Harry on Tuesday hit out at close ties between the U.K. media and government as he sued a tabloid newspaper group for illegal reporting methods, accusing both of damaging the country.

British royals have largely steered clear of publicly commenting about the government of the day.

But Prince Harry – now self-exiled in the U.S. – waded into a longstanding debate about government links to news organisations, as part of his case against Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) Ltd.

"Democracy fails when your press fails to hold the government accountable, and instead choose to get into bed with them so they can ensure the status quo," the Duke of Sussex said in London's High Court. He said he was not bringing the case out of a vendetta against the tabloids.

Afghan NGO's women staff resume work

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

A leading international NGO's Afghan women staff have resumed their work in some provinces, months after the Taliban government banned them from working.

"I am glad to confirm that we have been able to resume most of our humanitarian operations in Kandahar as well as a number of other regions in Afghanistan," Jan Egeland, Secretary-General of the independent Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) said Monday.

Governor killed

Meanwhile, the acting Governor of northern Badakhshan in the country was killed by a suicide bomber in the provincial capital of Faizabad on Tuesday, officials said, months after the region's police chief was killed in a similar attack claimed by the Islamic State group.

Unfazed by sanctions, Iran unveils new 'hypersonic missile' that can cover 1,400 km

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran claimed on Tuesday that it had created a hypersonic missile capable of travelling at 15 times the speed of sound, adding a new weapon to its arsenal as tensions remain high with the United States over it nuclear programme.

The new missile – called 'Fattah,' or 'Conqueror' in Farsi – was unveiled even as Iran said it would reopen its diplomatic posts on Tuesday in Saudi Arabia after reaching a détente with Riyadh following years of conflict.

"Today we feel that the deterrent power has been formed," Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said at the event.

Lethal weapon: The new hypersonic ballistic missile called 'Fattah' unveiled by Iran in Tehran on Tuesday. REUTERS

"This power is an anchor of lasting security and peace for the regional countries," he said.

Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard's aerospace programme, unveiled what appeared to be a model of the missile. Mr. Hajizadeh claimed the missile had a range of up to 1,400 km.

"There exists no system that can rival or counter this missile," Gen. Hajizadeh claimed.

Missile's trajectory

That claim, however, depends on how maneuverable the missile is. Ballistic missiles fly on a trajectory in which anti-missile systems like the Patriot can anticipate their path and intercept them.

Tuesday's event showed what appeared to be a moveable nozzle for the 'Fattah,' which could allow it to change trajectories in flight. The more irregular the missile's flight path, the more difficult it becomes to intercept.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत्त जालोर

क्रमांकः अअ/ वृत्त/ जा/ 2023-24/ 341 दिनांकः 24.05.2023

निविदा सूचना संख्या : 01 वर्ष 2023-2024

NIB No. PWD2324A0594

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से माननीय मुख्यमंत्री महोदय बजट घोषणा वर्ष 2023-24 के अन्तर्गत स्वीकृत विभिन्न सड़कों के निर्माण कार्य (दोष निवारण अवधि 5 वर्ष सहित) हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 32 पैकेज कार्य जिनकी लागत राशि रू. 6284.00 लाख है, अतः उक्त कार्यों के लिए ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख	:	29 मई 2023, 9:30 बजे से 19 जून 2023, सायं 06:00 बजे तक

निविदा से सम्बन्धितं विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व http:// eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट पर http:// eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। NIB No.

क्र. सं.	यूबीएन नं.	क्र. सं.	यूबीएन नं.	क्र. सं.	यूबीएन नं.
1	PWD2324WSRC02559	12	PWD2324WSOB02571	23	PWD2324WSOB02582
2	PWD2324WSRC02561	13	PWD2324WSOB02572	24	PWD2324WSOB02583
3	PWD2324WSRC02562	14	PWD2324WSOB02573	25	PWD2324WSOB02584
4	PWD2324WSRC02563	15	PWD2324WSOB02574	26	PWD2324WSOB02585
5	PWD2324WSOB02564	16	PWD2324WSOB02575	27	PWD2324WSOB02586
6	PWD2324WSOB02565	17	PWD2324WSOB02576	28	PWD2324WSOB02587
7	PWD2324WSOB02566	18	PWD2324WSOB02577	29	PWD2324WSOB02588
8	PWD2324WSOB02567	19	PWD2324WSOB02578	30	PWD2324WSOB02589
9	PWD2324WSOB02568	20	PWD2324WSOB02579	31	PWD2324WSOB02590
10	PWD2324WSRC02569	21	PWD2324WSOB02580	32	PWD2324WSOB02591
11	PWD2324WSOB02570	22	PWD2324WSOB02581		

(जयलाल मीना)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत्त, जालोर, मो. 9414304714

DIPR/C/7791/23

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत- झुंझुनूं

क्रमांक- 344 दिनांक 24.05.2023

संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या: 03(1)/ 2023-24

विषयः- इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 199 दिनांक 02.05.23 द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 03/2023-24 में निम्नानुसार संशोधन करने बाबत्।

क्र. सं.	जिला	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत निर्माण कार्य (राशि लाखों में) (जीएसटी रहित)	जीएसटी की राशि (राशि लाखों में @18 प्रतिशत)	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत जीएसटी सहित (राशि लाखों में)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	झुंझुनूं	Construction of Bye Pass Road in village Bharunda, Jhunjhunu (km. 0/00 to 4/00).	393.48	70.83	461.31
2	झुंझुनूं	Construction of Road from NH-11 to Birmi Chandwa	731.67	131.70	863.37
3	झुंझुनूं	Construction of office Building and Boundary Wall in D.T.O. Khetri Distt. Jhunjhunu	186.23	33.52	219.75

निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड व ऑनलाईन अपलोड (जमा) करने की तारीख (वेबसाईट पर) दिनांक 08.05.2023 प्रातः 09.30 बजे से दिनांक 29.05.2023 को शाम 06.00 बजे तक थी जिसमें दिनांक 29.05.2023 को शाम 06.00 बजे के स्थान पर **दिनांक 07.06.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक** पढ़ा जावे। एवं निविदा खोलने की दिनांक 30.05.2023 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे के स्थान पर **दिनांक 08.06.2023 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे** पढ़ा जावें।

निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

उक्त निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेब साईट **http://www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in** विभागीय वेब साईट **'http://www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in** व **http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।

डीआईपीआर/6652/ 08.05.23

UBN No. 1. (PWD2324WSOB01642)
2. (PWD2324WLOB01643)
3. (PWD2324WSOB01644)

अधिक्षण अभियंता
सा.नि.वि. वृत्त- झुंझुनूं
E-mail:- sejjn.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in

DIPR/C/7982/2023

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER
PHONE NO. 0145-2624748

No. F. ()/Ar.MP/2023-2024/3203-3202 Dated :- 26/05/2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS NIT No. 47-50/2023-24

Bids for related to Water supply schemes of subject matter of procurement are invited from interested bidders up to 13.06.2023 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.in.nic.in) of the state.

UBN No. PHE2324WSOB02790, PHE2324WSOB02792, PHE2324WSOB02794, PHE2324WSOB02795,
NIB No. PHE2324A1241
DIPR/C/7954

(Mukesh Goyal)
Additional Chief Engineer
PHED, Region, Ajmer

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE, DUNGARPUR.

No.- ACE/Actt./Dungarpur/2023-24/288 Dated:- 29.05.2023

Short Term E-NIT No. 02/2023-24
(NIB No. WRD2324A0096)

Bids for the following works are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM, dated 09.06.2023.

Sr No	Name of Work	Approx. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)
1.	**Repair Renovation & Modernization of Som Right Canal off taking from Ch. 0 to 600 and Som Feeder Tehsil and District Dungarpur.**	322.95
2.	**Construction of Dhomaniya Anicut Village Nadiya Tehsil Galiyakot District Dungarpur**	322.03

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http:// sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/ wrd

UBN:- WRD2324WSOB00323 & WRD2324WSOB00324
DIPR/C/7889

Superintending Engineer
Water Resources Construction Circle,
Dungarpur

Office of the Superintending Engineer Water Resources Construction Circle Dungarpur
E-gmail - sedungarpur.wr@rajasthan.gov.in

No. Acc./2023/ 287 Date:- 29.05.2023

Short Term E-NIT No. 01/2023-24

Bids for the works mentioned below are invited from interested bidders upto dated 09.06.2023 till 6.00 PM.

S. No.	Name of work
1	**Construction of Rata Ghata Anicut, Village Annapura, Tehsil Simalwara District Dungarpur Rs. 31898940.00 UBN No. WRD2324WSOB00317**
2	**Construction of Riska Ki Naal Anicut, Village Balwaniya, Tehsil Jhonthri, District Dungarpur Rs. 39187103.00 UBN No. WRD2324WSOB00318**

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in

NIB :- WRD2324A0093
UBN: WRD2324WSOB00317
UBN: WRD2324WSOB00318
DIPR/C/7890

Superintending Engineer
Water Resources Construction Circle
Dungarpur

SPEM - KUDUMBASHREE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
KUDUMBASHREE STATE MISSION,
2nd Floor, TRIDA Rehabilitation Building
Medical College.P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695011, Kerala.

E- TENDER NOTICE (RE-TENDER)

Tender Ref. No.: KSHO/M-Skills/02/2023 **Dt.: 07/06/2023**
Tender ID : 2023_SPEM_564364_2

E-Tenders are invited from competent organisations for the selection of State Technical Support Agency (STSA) under DDU-GKY, a Skill and Placement Programme run by Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India and Kudumbashree, Govt. of Kerala.

Title of Work : "Selection of STSA for DDUGKY Kerala".
EMD Amount : Rs. 1,00,000/-
Last date & time of online submission of Bids : 15:00 Hrs on 15/06/2023

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website: **http://etenders.kerala.gov.in**

(RO/01345/D3/2023/I&PRD)

INBRIEF

Nissan Motor India's Magnite roll-out count touches 1 lakh

Nissan Motor India has announced the roll-out of the 1,00,000th Magnite sport utility vehicle (SUV) from its alliance plant in Chennai. "This production milestone achievement underscores Nissan Motor India's commitment in delivering high-quality products and services," the automaker said in a statement. Designed in Japan and manufactured in India, the Magnite was unveiled in December 2020. The SUV is currently being exported to 15 global markets.

Chola to offer customised financing to dealers of ALL

Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) has tied up with Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (Chola) to facilitate inventory financing for its dealers. The two firms signed an MoU to provide customised financing solutions for ALL's 130 dealers, ALL said. "By joining forces with Chola, our expanded nationwide presence will instill unwavering trust in our dealerships across diverse markets," said ALL president - LCV, Amandeep Singh.

Byju's 'disqualifies' U.S. lender, skips payment on $1.2-bn loan

Edtech start-up Byju's said on Tuesday it had skipped payments due on a $1.2 billion loan and instead disqualified the U.S. lender for "predatory" tactics. Byju's filed a suit against investment management firm Redwood saying the U.S. entity purchased a significant portion of the loan while primarily trading in distressed debt, which was contrary to the conditions of the term loan facility. Byju's did not pay $40 million in interest due Monday on the loan. PTI

Retail inflation likely eased in May

Economists estimate that consumer inflation may have eased further last month due to moderation in food prices; on a sequential basis, however, retail inflation is expected to have inched up 0.4% in May compared with a 0.2% decline in April

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's consumer inflation could moderate further from April's 18-month low of 4.7%, with food price rise likely to have cooled further in May even as prices of some items like milk, rice and pulses moved up on a month-on-month basis, economists reckoned.

The National Statistical Office will release the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for May next Monday. Rice and Wheat prices increased 10% and 8% in May, compared with a year ago, as per a Crisil Market Intelligence report estimating costs of food plates which found expenses on both vegetarian and non-vegetarian Thalis increased sequentially for the first time in seven months.

Easing inflation

Retail inflation in May likely moderated further from the 18-month low of 4.7% in April despite the rise in milk and pulse prices as food prices dipped significantly

- The price of a veg thali dropped by 9% year-on-year in May on declining vegetable and cooking oil prices
- Retail inflation may have risen on a sequential basis, though, as compared with a slight decline in prices in April
- Economists expect the RBI to pause its rate hike cycle and begin cutting rates amid easing inflation

Cheaper 'thalis'

"The cost of veg and non-veg thalis declined 9% and 4% on-year, respectively, in May due to steep decline in prices of vegetables and cooking oil, which account for ~25% of the total cost of a veg thali, but increase in prices of cereals, pulses, chicken, and eggs capped the reduction," the report said.

The Bank of Baroda Essential Commodity Index, which covers 23% of the CPI and 58% of the Consumer Food Price Index, slowed to 1.4% in May from 2.8% in April.

"We expect CPI to further edge down to 4.5% in May from 4.7% in April," the bank's economist Dipanwita Mazumdar said in a note.

However, on a sequential basis, the index inched up to 0.4% in May compared to a 0.2% decline in the month before.

"Milk is still stubbornly high at 10.9% amidst reports of difficulty in procuring feed and also lumpy skin disease in cattle. Even sugar prices are inching up. Even pulses could pose another round of spiral as Tur, Urad and Moong are noticing an upsurge," she cautioned. The bank expects retail inflation to stay below 5% till September, and the RBI to pause interest rates through 2023-24 with a probable rate cut at the beginning of next year.

'AI can't curtail other airlines' rights if it wants to expand'

Jagriti Chandra
ISTANBUL

Air India ought to respect the rights of airlines from other countries to add seats into India if it wants to expand its presence in those countries, cautioned Tim Clark, president of Dubai-based Emirates airline.

"If Air India wants to expand, it can't curtail the rights of foreign carriers from the countries that it wishes to expand into," Mr. Clark said on the sidelines of the IATA World Air Transport Summit in Istanbul.

The Emirates executive's remarks were in response to Air India CEO Campbell Wilson's comments to *The Hindu* on April 20 that "India must not open the floodgates" for foreign carriers as it was in its "national interest" to allow the Tata Sons-owned airline to provide non-stop flights on long-haul international routes.

Tim Clark

Dubai has demanded a revision of the air service agreement signed with India in 2014 such that the 66,000 seats permitted to the airlines of the two jurisdictions be topped up by another 50,000 seats. But India has indicated that it has no intent yet to accede to this demand.

Mr. Clark's comments echo those of the IATA Director General Willie Walsh, who had said that Indian airlines that want to expand abroad may suffer as "other countries may restrict capacity as well."

(The writer was in Istanbul at IATA's invitation)

'Internet economy to hit $1 trillion by 2030'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's Internet economy – B2C e-commerce firms, online service providers, edtech companies, and so on – will hit $1 trillion in value by 2030, up from $175 billion in 2022, according to a report by Google, Bain & Company and Temasek.

As per "The e-Conomy of a Billion Connected Indians," the growth would be driven by more Indians starting to transact online and the overall expansion of digital businesses.

The key thrust would come from "Tier 2+ locations." The changes were expected to be the most pronounced in smaller towns and rural areas in terms of impact on the value of the Internet economy, as only 13% of the Indians lived in metro and tier 1 cities.

"HealthTech and InsurTech, both sized at or less than $2 billion today, will demonstrate the largest expansion, said a release accompanying the report.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	62,793	0.10
US Dollar	82.60	0.03
Gold	60,775	0.62
Brent oil	76.38	-1.11

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2433.65	-0.30
Adani Ports	745.40	6.60
Apollo Hosp	4940.10	-10.10
Asian Paints	3212.75	13.00
Axis Bank	968.20	17.35
Bajaj Auto	4726.25	16.20
Bajaj Finserv	1475.10	16.20
Bajaj Finance	7113.95	70.75
Bharti Airtel	829.45	-5.05
BPCL	356.15	-0.65
Britannia Ind	4705.40	22.80
Cipla	972.05	-2.75
Coal India	227.80	-1.90
Divis Lab	3537.90	75.60
Dr Reddys Lab	4636.65	33.10
Eicher Motors	3705.10	31.85
Grasim Ind	1766.40	31.90
HCL Tech	1128.60	-9.70
HDFC	2635.35	-9.45
HDFC Bank	1599.40	-5.00
HDFC Life	579.70	5.55
Hero MotoCorp	2904.80	34.20
Hindalco	415.55	-4.15
Hind Unilever	2691.15	-4.65
ICICI Bank	942.10	-4.65
IndusInd Bank	1306.00	4.20
Infosys	1279.00	-25.50
ITC	442.80	2.15
JSW Steel	712.85	0.70
Kotak Bank	1959.05	34.15
L&T	2277.95	9.65
M&M	1411.20	15.80
Maruti Suzuki	9736.20	154.10
NestleIndia	21705.40	-128.75
NTPC	175.40	1.30
ONGC	153.65	-1.75
PowerGrid Corp	235.30	-0.30
Reliance Ind	2479.35	2.10
SBI Life	1223.00	7.60
State Bank	585.35	-1.85
Sun Pharma	1013.80	5.05
TataConsumerProduct	792.10	-0.35
Tata Motors	555.75	9.50
Tata Steel	109.00	-0.40
TCS	3232.30	-56.60
Tech Mahindra	1086.25	-23.10
Titan	2881.45	25.75
UltraTech Cement	8109.55	227.55
UPL	694.00	4.00
Wipro	399.95	-4.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.41	82.73
Euro	88.08	88.42
British Pound	102.27	102.67
Japanese Yen (100)	59.07	59.30
Chinese Yuan	11.58	11.62
Swiss Franc	90.73	91.10
Singapore Dollar	61.07	61.31
Canadian Dollar	61.35	61.61
Malaysian Ringitt	17.87	17.96
Australian Dollar	54.85	55.06

Source:Indian Bank

Bajaj Finserv forays into mutual-fund business

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bajaj Finserv Ltd., a diversified financial services group, has forayed into the mutual fund business.

Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund would soon introduce a comprehensive set of products across fixed income, hybrid and equity categories to meet the needs of diverse investor profiles ranging from retail and HNIs to institutions.

To begin with, the company will offer fixed income, liquid, overnight and money-market products to cater to the institutional segment and company treasuries. The firm had already filed papers for seven schemes with SEBI.

Aditya Birla set for ₹5,000-cr. branded jewellery foray

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Aditya Birla Group said it is entering the branded jewellery retail business with an investment of about ₹5,000 crore.

This business will be housed in a new venture, Novel Jewels Ltd., that would have large-format, exclusive, jewellery retail stores across India with in-house jewellery brands.

Kumar Mangalam Birla

Aspirational brand

The venture would create an aspirational national brand with unique designs and a strong regional flavour, the group said.

"This foray is a strategic portfolio choice that allows us to tap into new growth engines and expand our presence in the vibrant Indian consumer landscape," said Kumar Mangalam Birla, Group Chairman. This is the Group's third major foray into a new business in the last two years after paints and B2B e-commerce for building materials.

World Bank cuts 2023 global growth forecast

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The global economy is likely slowing sharply this year, hobbled by high interest rates, the repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the lingering effects of the pandemic.

This the latest outlook of the World Bank which estimates that the international economy will expand just 2.1% in 2023 after growing 3.1% in 2022.

Still, the bank's latest report marks an upgrade from its previous forecast of 1.7% in January. It upgraded its forecast for U.S. economic growth this year to 1.1% and foresaw India's growth slowing to 6.3% from 7.2% last year.

PE firm picks stake in KPN Farm Fresh

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

WestBridge Capital has picked up a near 60% stake in KPN Farm Fresh, a retail chain selling farm fresh vegetables and fruits.

Sources here who are in the know of the investment details told *The Hindu* that the WestBridge Capital investment in KPN Farm Fresh, which has been valued at ₹900 crores, is for the retail chain's outlets in and around Chennai.

The Kovai Pazhamudir Nilayam (KPN) outlets in Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Tiruchi and Thanjavur will continue to be with the promoters, who continue to hold 40% stake in KPN Farm Fresh.

According to information available on its website, Kovai Pazhamudir Nilayam has 34 outlets in Chennai, three in Puducherry, and one each in Cuddalore and Tirupathi apart from four outlets in Coimbatore and the same number of stores in Tiruppur, three in Thanjavur and one in Tiruchi.

Saint-Gobain unveils low-carbon glass

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Saint-Gobain India is betting on renewable energy, natural gas and hydrogen to produce products with lower-embodied carbon footprint in a bid to achieve Net Zero by 2050, according to a top official.

As the first step in this direction, the Indian subsidiary of the French multinational firm on Tuesday announced the introduction of glass with low-carbon footprint from its World Glass Complex at Sriperumbudur, near here.

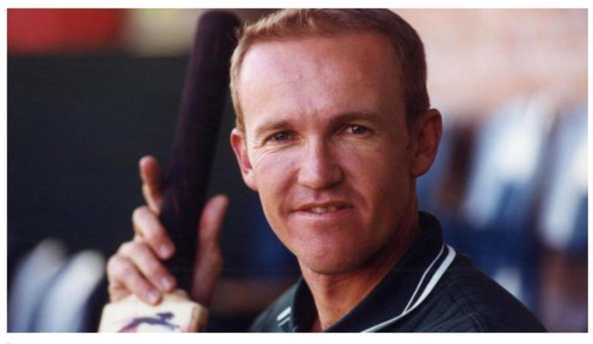
"It is India's first low-carbon glass," said MD Glass Business A.R. Unnikrishnan during an interaction "It reduces carbon footprint by 40% approximately compared to our existing products."

A. R. Unnikrishnan

Mr. Unnikrishnan said the product could be made on account of using two-third recycled content as raw material, natural gas and electricity from renewable energy sources. "We will try to achieve Net Zero by 2050," he added.

CONSULTANCY ROLE

Andy Flower joins Australia support staff ahead of WTC Final



Andy Flower has joined the Australian camp ahead of the WTC Final against India, starting on Wednesday. Flower, who coached England from 2009-2014, joined the Australian camp in a consultancy role. However, he is not expected to be around for the start of the Ashes, which begins on June 16 at Edgbaston.

TEST RETURN

Rahane will have his work cut out during summit clash: Manjrekar

Sanjay Manjrekar backed Ajinkya Rahane who is returning to the Indian side after 18-19 months. “He was under tremendous pressure the last time when he was playing for India. A good First Class season as well will mean a freer mind. But coming back to Test cricket you realise that it's a completely different ball game.”

EYEING A CENTURY

The money's nice, but I'd love to play 100 Tests: Starc on IPL

Australian pacer Mitchell Starc said he hasn't been participating in the IPL for a long time to prolong his international career as he wants to represent his country in 100 Test matches. "To choose not to do certain things to prolong playing for Australia, I’ve been smart. The money’s nice, but I'd love to play 100 Tests."

ADVANTAGE

Oval pitch will assist spinners, a good venue for India: Tendulkar

Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar said the spin-friendly nature of the Oval pitch will benefit India going into the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia. “The team will be happy that they are playing at the Oval. The nature is such that it assists the spinners, they’ll come into play a little bit,” he said.

Test cricket’s ultimate prize awaits as titans clash

Australia stands in the way as India seeks to end a decade-long title drought; Rohit’s side might play four seamers; Boland likely to get the nod ahead of Neser

WTC FINAL

Ashwin Achal
LONDON

It has been 10 years since India has won an ICC title. The World Test Championship (WTC) final, which commences at The Oval on Wednesday, presents the team a chance to ease itself of this heavy burden.

India will want to make amends for the inaugural WTC final held at Southampton in 2021 when New Zealand cruised home by eight wickets in a rain-affected encounter. Australia stands in the way this time around, as India takes another shot at redemption.

In Shubman Gill, India boasts of the hottest property in world cricket. He had the best of times in the recent IPL, finishing as the highest run-scorer. In this calendar year alone, the Punjab batter has scored international centuries in all three formats.

Australia will be double wary of Gill’s flashing blade, given that he has the wood over strike bowler Mitchell Starc. Left-arm pacer Starc has been unable to dismiss Gill in nine Test innings, and has gone for a strike-rate of over 90.

If Gill has become synonymous with big scores, his opening partner and skipper Rohit Sharma is in a slump. The Mumbai opener may not read too much into his IPL form, but he will nervy while taking strike at The Oval. At the optional practice session on Tuesday, Rohit was hit on the finger while batting. He batted on after the hit before ending his session early.

Ajinkya Rahane makes a comeback, having last played a Test in January 2022. The Mumbai batter reinvented himself as a powerful stroke-maker in the IPL after finding some red-ball form with two centuries in the 2022-23 Ranji Trophy. Rahane, a veteran of 82 Tests, lends a steady hand in the middle-order.

Cheteshwar Pujara is best prepared for the English conditions as he has turned out for Sussex in the county championship over the last two months. Pujara made the most of the experience, hitting three centuries in a successful stint.

Virat Kohli, captain in the Southampton outing, will want to better his record in England. The star batter managed only 249 runs in the five Tests against England when India last toured here, at an average of 27.66.

Kohli can take solace in the fact that the last time India met Australia in a Test, he stole the show with a brilliant 186 (at Ahmedabad).

The dependable K.S. Bharat is set to keep his place as the wicketkeeper in the XI, ahead of Ishan Kishan.

With the overcast skies and seamer-friendly pitch, India will be tempted to play four fast bowlers in Mohammed Siraj, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav and Shardul Thakur. Umesh, prone to spraying the ball around while striving for extra pace, could come good when reverse swing is on offer in the latter stages of the match.

R. Ashwin could be picked over left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja, as that the off-spinner offers a better match-up option to the four southpaws in the likely Australian batting unit.

Australia will be desperate to see David Warner turn a corner. Giving Warner company in the fight against the new ball is comeback man and form batter Usman Khawaja.

Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith, the No. 1 and No. 3 ranked batters in the world respectively, form a strong middle-order core. Speedster Scott Boland, who has taken 28 wickets in his first seven Tests, has earned his spot over Michael Neser.

The Australian line-up picks itself, and looks the stronger side on paper. But India, the top-ranked Test side, will not go without a fight.

The teams (from):
India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, K.S. Bharat, R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Jaydev Unadkat, and Ishan Kishan.
Australia: Pat Cummins (Capt.), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Josh Inglis, Todd Murphy, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc and David Warner.
Umpires: On-field: Chris Gaffaney and Richard Illingworth; **TV**: Richard Kettleborough; **Fourth**: Kumar Dharmasena; **Match referee**: Richie Richardson.
Play starts at 3 p.m. IST.
Live on Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar.

Battle for the throne

As Australia and India gear up to square off at The Oval, an analysis of the contests and players at the venue in the last decade

GROUND ANALYSIS

MATCHES AT THE OVAL SINCE 2013: 9
Avg. score in 1st inns: **304.11**
in 2nd inns: **310.89**
in 3rd inns: **260.00**
in 4th inns: **206.86**

HIGHEST TOTAL: 542 — Pakistan in 2nd innings (2016)
LOWEST TOTAL: 94 — India in 3rd innings (2014)

GAMES WON BATTING FIRST: 5
GAMES WON FIELDING FIRST: 3
GAMES THAT WERE DRAWN: 1

	Wickets by pacers	Wickets by spinners
1st inns	78	10
2nd	75	13
3rd	52	26
4th	27	15
Total	**232**	**64**

78.37% of the wickets have been taken by pacers
21.62% of the wickets have been taken by spinners

- **India won** its last outing at The Oval *(vs Eng in 2021)*
- **Australia lost** its previous match at The Oval *(vs Eng in 2019)*
- **5 out** of the **last 9** Tests have seen play on all five days
- The Oval will make its **June debut** (the first time a Test will be played at the venue in this month)

HEAD-TO-HEAD IN TESTS SINCE 2013
Last series: India won 2-1
India: 8 | Australia: 6 | Draw: 6

PLAYER NUMBERS (AT THE OVAL)

INDIA

	Inns	Runs	Avg.	HS	100s/50s
Rohit	2	**138**	69.00	127	1/0
Pujara	6	**117**	19.50	61	0/1
Kohli	6	**169**	28.16	50	0/1
Rahane	6	**55**	9.16	37	0/0
Jadeja	4	**126**	42.00	86*	0/1
Shardul	2	**117**	58.50	60	0/2

	Inns	Wkts	Avg.	BBI	5w/10w
Shami	2	**2**	91.00	2/110	0/0
Siraj	2	**1**	86.00	1/42	0/0
Jadeja	4	**11**	31.27	4/79	0/0
Ashwin	1	**3**	24.00	3/72	0/0
Umesh	2	**6**	22.66	3/60	0/0
Shardul	2	**3**	25.33	2/22	0/0

- **Gill** will make his first appearance at The Oval
- Jadeja batted at No. 5 in the most recent game at The Oval and scored 27 runs in two innings

AUSTRALIA

	Inns	Runs	Avg.	HS	100s/50s
Warner	5	**119**	23.80	85	0/1
Labus-chagne	2	**48**	31.00	48	0/0
Smith	5	**391**	97.75	143	2/1

	Inns	Wkts	Avg.	BBI	5w/10w
Cummins	2	**5**	30.20	3/84	0/0
Starc	4	**3**	66.00	3/92	0/0
Lyon	6	**9**	30.77	4/69	0/0

WEATHER FORECAST
Day 1: Sunny and a gentle breeze *(Max temp. 21°, min. 9°)*
Day 2: Sunny and a moderate breeze *(21° and 10°)*
Day 3: Sunny and a moderate breeze *(23° and 13°)*
Day 4: Thundery showers and a gentle breeze *(26° and 15°)*
Day 5: Light rain showers and light winds *(26° and 15°)*
SOURCE: BBC.COM

The match-ups and the build-up

- **Ashwin** has picked up 241 wickets of left-handers (50.84% of his total wickets)
- Australia is expected to play at least four left-handed batters in the final
- In 22 matches, the off-spinner has scalped 114 wickets against Australia (Avg: 28.36, BBI: 7/103)
- Ashwin has dismissed Warner 11 times in 20 innings and Smith eight times (25 inns)

- **Jadeja** has 85 wickets in 16 Tests against Australia (Avg: 18.85, BBI: 7/42)
- The left-arm spinner has dismissed Smith seven times in 18 innings

- **Lyon** has picked up 116 wickets in 26 Tests against India (Avg: 32.40, BBI: 8/50)
- Lyon has taken Pujara’s wicket 13 times in 33 innings and Rahane 10 times (30 inns)

- **Smith** has a stellar record against India, scoring 1887 runs in 35 visits to the crease (eight 100s, five 50s, avg. 65.06)

- **Pujara** has a good record against the Aussies, scoring 2033 runs in 43 innings (five 100s, 11 50s, avg. 50.82)

- **Kohli** has scored 1979 runs in 42 innings against Australia (eight 100s, five 50s, avg. 48.26)

Recent county run

	M	Inns	Runs	Avg.	HS	100s/50s
Pujara	6	8	545	68.13	151	3/1
Labuschagne	5	8	502	71.71	170*	2/2
Smith	3	3	122	40.67	89	0/1

COMPILED BY KEERTHANA SHANKAR | GRAPHIC: A. GANESHAN

Skipper Rohit unwilling to dwell on India’s barren run at global ICC events

Ashwin Achal
LONDON

To win the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) title under his captaincy would be a noteworthy addition to Rohit Sharma’s resume.

Australia will pose a stuff challenge, but Rohit has his sights set on the big prize. Asked what type of legacy he would like to leave as India captain, Rohit replied, “I got the (captaincy) job to make sure that we take Indian cricket forward. I want to win games; I want to win championships and titles. It will be nice if I can win one or two championships, as in when I decide to move on from this job.”

India last won an ICC title in 2013, but the barren run is not something that Rohit wants to dwell on. “The players know when India won and when they didn’t. I don’t think it is right to think about it again and again (India failing to win a title in 10 years). You have to focus on the situation, and how we can do better,” Rohit said in the pre-match press conference here on Tuesday.

Hopes pinned

The captain is hopeful that form batter Shubman Gill spends quality time at the crease. “Gill likes to spend a lot of time in the middle.

Even though it was the T20 format (in the recent IPL), you saw him get big, big hundreds. Team India will also hope that he spends a lot of time in the middle, and play like he has in the last six to eight months,” Rohit said.

The 36-year-old smiled when asked if players have had enough time to adjust to the demands of the longest format after their IPL stint.

“We’ve been playing cricket like this - series after series - for many years. I don’t know when was the last time we had a good break. All the guys are used to playing a lot of cricket now. That is why we talk about workload management. It’s important to manage player workloads, and to make sure that they’re fresh,” Rohit said.

Eye on the prize: Rohit — and coach Dravid — will hope India ends the long drought. REUTERS

Real luxury as captain to have a fifth bowling option who can take wickets, says Cummins

Sports Bureau
LONDON

Australia captain Pat Cummins has backed seamer Scott Boland and all-rounder Cameron Green to come good in the ICC WTC final against India here.

Boland has had a fantastic start to his Test career, and Cummins expects him to thrive in helpful conditions.

“These conditions will suit him. A seam bowler will be rewarded for bowling in good areas here, and that is what he brings to the table. He played the first Test in India on a docile pitch, and still did a fantastic job. He’s a seasoned pro; if there is any assistance from the pitch he will take it to the next level,” Cummins said in a press conference here on Tuesday.

Green has blossomed into a genuine all-rounder – one who can win a match with either bat or bowl. Cummins likened Green to England star Ben Stokes in terms of lending that 'X' factor to the line-up.

“Green has been fantastic. In the last Test, he scored his first Test hundred. And before that, he took a five-for. He keeps growing and growing as a cricketer. It is a real luxury as captain to have a fifth bowling option who can take wickets. We’ve seen what Ben Stokes has done for England. Having a key all-rounder in the top six can make a big difference,” Cummins said.

Asked if pacers can be expected to rule the roost here, especially so in the morning sessions, Cummins replied, “The weather looks good. It is sunny days – so there is a tinge of green on the pitch. But still, there are runs to be scored.

“In county cricket, we’ve seen decent scores at this ground all season long. The Oval always has a bit of pace and bounce, so hopefully there’s something in it for us quicks.”

INBRIEF

Sunil Kumar clinches Asian under-20 decathlon gold

Sunil Kumar won the men's decathlon gold at the 20th Asian under-20 athletics championships at Yecheon, South Korea, on Tuesday. India also won two silver medals in the women's section through Bushra Khan Gauri (3,000m) and Pooja (high jump).

Important results (gold medallists and Indian performances in finals): Men: 4x100m relay: 1. Japan (39.76), 3. India (40.56); **Decathlon:** 1. Sunil Kumar (Ind) 7,003 points.

Women: 3,000m: 1. Mizumoto Kana (Jpn) 9:16.92, 2. Bushra Khan Gauri (Ind) 9:41.44; **4x100m relay:** 1. China (45.05), 3. India (45.36); **High jump:** 1. B. Saifullaeva (1.84m), 2. Pooja (Ind) 1.82, 6. Mohur Mukherjee (Ind) 1.69.

India fights back to secure a draw against Korea

India came from behind to salvage a 2-2 draw against Korea in its third game of the women's Junior Asia Cup hockey, in Kakamighara (Japan), on Tuesday. Yujin Lee (15th minute) and Jiyon Choi (30th) found the back of the net for Korea, while Deepika Soreng (43rd) and Deepika (54th) scored a goal each, enabling India to maintain its position at the top of Pool A.

Blasters pull the plug on women's team for now

Days after the AIFF rejected Kerala Blasters' appeal against the ₹4 crore fine for its walkout in an ISL playoff match against Bengaluru FC in March, the club's management announced on Tuesday that it was temporarily stopping its women's team's activities.

LIVE TELECAST

BWF: Singapore Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 a.m.

Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan: 3rd ODI, Sony LIV & FanCode, 10 a.m.

Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards

WTC (final): Australia vs India, Day 1, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3 p.m.

UEFA Europa Conference League: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

NBA (finals): MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m. (Thursday)

Djokovic passes the Khachanov test, reaches semifinal for the 12th time at Roland-Garros

Sabalenka defeats Svitolina and unseeded Muchova storms past Pavlyuchenkova as both enter the last-four stage for the first time in their careers

FRENCH OPEN

Associated Press
PARIS

Novak Djokovic beat 11th seed Karen Khachanov 4-6, 7-6(0), 6-2, 6-4 on Tuesday to reach the French Open semifinals for 12th time.

Djokovic dropped his first set of the tournament but dominated the second-set tie-break against Khachanov before putting his foot down to secure a ninth win in 10 meetings with the Russian 11th seed.

Aryna Sabalenka and Karolina Muchova are in the French Open semifinals for the first time.

The second-seeded Sabalenka overpowered Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-4 on Tuesday to set up a semifinal against the unseeded Muchova. The Czech beat 2021 runner-up Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia 7-5, 6-2.

Svitolina was booed by some sections of the crowd because she snubbed the Australian Open champion after the final point, instead of shaking her hand at the net.

Sabalenka walked up to the net, and leaned on the top of it with both hands, looking at Svitolina as she walked. Svitolina did not look in her direction and went straight to the sideline.

Like other players from Ukraine, Svitolina has not been shaking hands with players from Belarus or Russia after matches.

Sabalenka's all-risk tennis paid dividends despite 37 unforced errors. Her aggressive returns and deep groundstrokes put Svitolina on the backfoot from the start. Under pressure at the beginning of the second set and 2-0 down, Sabalenka raised her game to win four games in a row and sealed the match with a forehand winner. Sabalenka has yet to drop a set in the tournament.

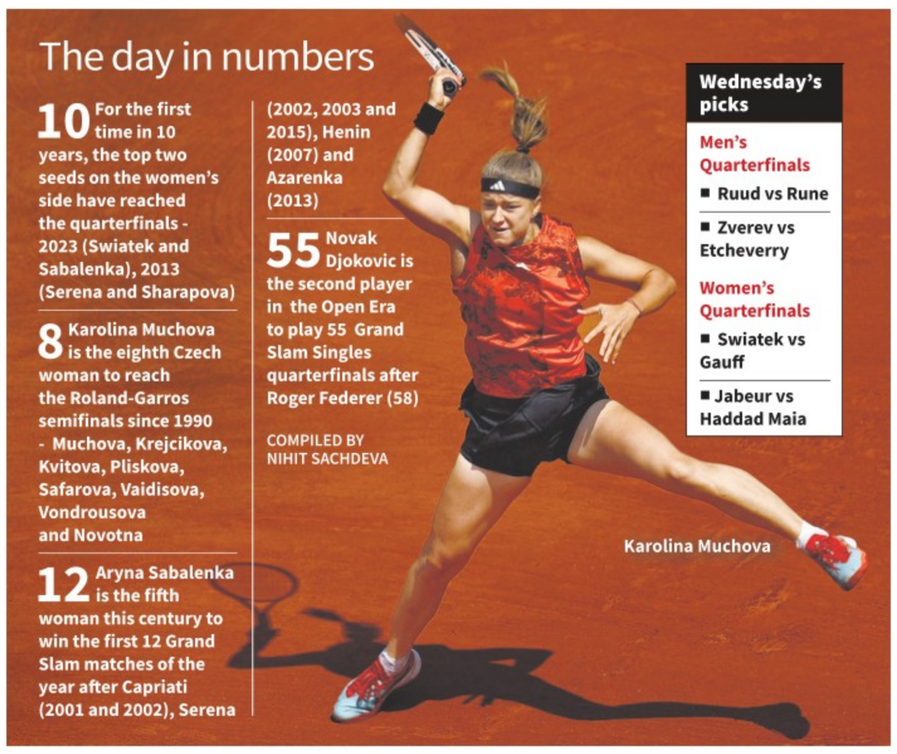
Pavlyuchenkova played for more than three hours in her previous match and appeared tired as she got off a sluggish start and gave away too many easy points.

She tried to fight back using her powerful groundstrokes but her hopes of a comeback were dashed when she went down 4-1 in the second set after another big forehand bounced wide.

Pavlyuchenkova missed most of the 2022 season with a knee injury. Ranked No. 333, she was the lowest-ranked woman to reach the Roland Garros quarterfinals in the Open Era, and the lowest at any Grand Slam since 2017.

Muchova has also been slowed by an injuries as an abdominal problem forced her to rest for six months after the 2021 U.S. Open. She damaged an ankle during her third-round match at Roland Garros last year.

Muchova will be playing her second semifinal at a Major after making it that far at the Australian Open two years ago.



THE RESULTS

Quarterfinals: Men: 3-Djokovic (Srb) bt 11-Khachanov (Rus) 4-6, 7-6(0), 6-2, 6-4.
Women: Muchova (Cze) bt Pavlyuchenkova (Rus) 7-5, 6-2; 2-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Svitolina (Ukr) 6-4, 6-4.
Fourth round: Men: 22-Zverev bt 28-Dimitrov (Bgr) 6-1, 6-4, 6-3; Etcheverry (Arg) bt 27-Nishioka (Jpn) 7-6(8), 6-0, 6-1.

Gukesh dominates Giri in Armageddon

CHESS

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

D. Gukesh held Anish Giri to a 58-move draw in the classical format and returned to dominate their Armageddon game for a 48-move triumph in the sixth round of the 11th Norway Chess at Stavanger, Norway, on Monday.

Fabiano Caruana recovered from the setback suffered on the previous day by punishing Nodirbek Abdusattorov for a late error and extending his lead. Caruana, the only winner in the classical games on this day, also regained his World No. 2 rank in live ratings.

Gukesh, busy reinforcing his place in the big league with a series of impressive performances, gave nothing away to Giri.

In the Armageddon, Giri's defence fell to pieces as he stared at a nine-move forced checkmate sequence before deciding to resign.

After the game, Gukesh said, "I'm quite happy with my play, but the results are not very good. My play has been good, so I guess the results will come!"

The result gave Gukesh a share of the third spot with Alireza Firouzja, behind Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura.

The results: Sixth round: D. Gukesh drew with Anish Giri (Ned); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 6) lost to Fabiano Caruana (USA, 13.5); Aryan Tari (Nor) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor); Alireza Firouzja (Fra) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA); Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze) drew with Wesley So (USA); Armageddon: Gukesh (8.5) bt Giri (7); Tari (3) lost to Carlsen (7.5); Firouzja (8.5) lost to Nakamura (11); Mamedyarov (8) lost to So (7.5).

Seventh round pairings: Caruana-Gukesh; Carlsen-Firouzja; Nakamura-Mamedyarov; Giri-Tari; So-Abdusattorov.

PGA Tour to merge with Saudi-backed LIV Golf

Reuters
DUBLIN (USA)

The PGA Tour, European Tour and rival Saudi-backed LIV Golf circuit announced a landmark agreement on Tuesday to merge and form a commercial entity to unify golf.

"After two years of disruption and distraction, this is a historic day for the game we all know and love," PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said in a joint news release.

The LIV Golf series is bankrolled by the Saudi Arabia Public Investment Fund.

The rival circuit launched in 2022 and has lured a number of big-name players from the PGA Tour, including Hall of Fame golfer Phil Mickelson, former world No. 1 Dustin Johnson, reigning PGA Championship winner Brooks Koepka and Australian Cameron Smith.

More gold medals for India in Junior World Cup shooting

Sports Bureau

Two team gold medals in 10-metre air rifle and 25-metre sports pistol by junior women helped India bolster its tally to five gold medals in the Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, on Tuesday.

Megana Sadula, Payal Khatri and Simranpreet Brar won the team gold in sports pistol. Megana and Payal finished fourth and fifth in the individual event. Gautami Bhanot finished fifth in junior women's air rifle, but won the gold for the team along with Swati Chowdhury and Sonam Maskar.

India was on top of the medals table with five gold, four silver and two bronze.

The results: 10m air rifle: Junior women: 1. Oceanne Muller (Fra) 250.2 (629.8); 2. Misaki Nobata (Jpn) 249.7 (631.2); 3. Kim Jieun (Kor) 227.5 (630.2); 5. Gautami Bhanot 185.9 (628.7); 10. Swati Chowdhury 627.9; 16. Sonam Maskar 626.9; 20. Isha Taksale 626.5.

Team: 1. India (Gautami Bhanot, Swati Chowdhury, Sonam Maskar) 1883.5; 2. Serbia 1880.3; 3. Norway 1877.2.

25m sports pistol: Junior men: 1. Amanpreet Singh 586; 2. Jung Yunjong (Kor) 585; 3. Wiktor Kopiwoda (Pol) 580; 8. Swaraj Bhondave 574; 9. Meshaak Christopher 574; 13. Abhimanyu Yadav 571; 14. Ankait Tomar 569.

Junior women: 1. Kim Minseo (Kor) 28(3) 574; 2. Chien Chu Sun (Tpe) 28 (2) 579; 3. Cristina Magnani (Ita) 25 (572); 4. Megana Sadula 22 (577); 5. Payal Khatri 18 (572); 7. Divanshi 11 (579); 10. Simranpreet Brar 570.

Team: 1. India (Megana Sadula, Payal Khatri, Simranpreet Brar) 1719; 2. Czech Republic 1690; 3. Germany 1679.

50m rifle 3-position: Junior men: 1. Romain Aufrere (Fra) 458.0 (580); 2. Jesper Johansson (Swe) 456.6 (587); 3. Marko Ivvanovic (Srb) 445.9 (587); 24. Shivam Dabas 574; 28. Avinash Yadav 573; 31. Parikshit Singh 572; 40. Ramanya Tomer 567.

Srikanth advances; Sindhu loses

SINGAPORE OPEN

Press Trust of India
SINGAPORE

Indians had a mixed day at the Singapore Open Super 750 badminton tournament as K. Srikanth made a winning start while P.V. Sindhu and H.S. Prannoy were ousted after suffering contrasting losses in the first round here on Tuesday.

Srikanth defeated Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen.

The results: First round: Men: Srikanth bt Kantaphon Wangcharoen (Tha) 21-15, 21-19; Priyanshu Rajawat bt Kanta Tsuneyama (Jpn) 21-12, 21-15; Naraoka (Jpn) bt Prannoy 21-15, 21-19.
Doubles: M.R. Arjun / Dhruv Kapila bt Lucas Corvee / Ronan Labar (Fra) 21-16, 21-15.
Women: Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) bt Sindhu 18-21, 21-19, 21-17; Ratchanok Intanon (Tha) bt Saina Nehwal 21-13, 21-15; Supanida Katethong (Tha) bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-17, 21-9.

Move it out of England, play at least a three-Test series

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

However you measure the success of the World Test Championship, still only in its second edition, there are already two areas that need to be looked at afresh. One, the venue. And perhaps more importantly, the format of the final.

The first three 50-over World Cups were played in England which, in the 1970s was seen as the natural host for such a tournament. International cricketers, some even from India, felt the World Cup shouldn't leave England. And then India won the title in 1983.

Four years later, the tournament was played in the subcontinent, and later hosted by other countries. In a few more years, England and Australia lost their veto power in the International Cricket Council, and soon India emerged as the nerve centre of the game.

Now the first three World Test Championship are slated to be held in England - the next, in 2025, at Lord's - and here's why, according to Wasim Khan, the ICC's General Manager of Cricket.

Northern hemisphere

He told a news agency last week, "The way the WTC cycle is set up, we are playing in the northern hemisphere summer. We look for diverse venues, currently as it stands within England. The UK very much suits the set-up of the tournament because it very much falls in line with the northern hemisphere."

We play in England because it is in the northern hemisphere? In which case, what of other countries also in the northern hemisphere? India, to take a random example? Does this mean that Australia, South Africa, New Zealand will never get to host the tournament because of a geographical or scheduling accident?

Regarding the venue, there is a fundamental question to be answered: should the final be played at a neutral venue, at the home venue of one of the teams, or on a home-and-away basis (if a series rather than a one-off Test is to be played)?

Tickets for the World Test Championship final commencing at the Oval today might have been sold out in advance. And given the Indian diaspora's passion for cricket, might be sold out wherever and whenever India make it to the final.

Necessary evil

Yet, the fact that no other Test-playing country has even raised a mild objection to this arrangement, or the fact that no one has voiced better suggestions overall leads one to believe that the World Test Championship final is a necessary evil cricket has to put up with.

The lets-get-it-over-and-done-with attitude, so typical of the ICC which talks about the primacy of Test cricket but does nothing about it in practical terms, comes across in what is not done as much as in what is done by the authorities. There is an element of going through the motions about the final.

Not a new notion

Which brings us to the second change the final calls out for: a series, perhaps even of three Tests to decide the winners. This is not a new notion. Ahead of the previous final, against New Zealand in Southampton, India's then skipper Virat Kohli said he would have preferred a three-Test series.

For this is the essence of Test cricket. Not only is it a game of five days' duration, it is, properly a contest over five Tests. That might sound illogical and impracticable in contemporary times, but that is what sport is: illogical and pointless, except that it is the most vital meaningless thing invented by man.

And a five-Test series, the test of skill, endurance and that crucial element that distinguishes cricket from other activities, the possibility of a comeback after initial failure, will determine the best of the best.

It is good enough for the Ashes, for some series involving India, but not, apparently, for the greatest test of strength in the World Test Championship.

The T20 angle

Australia play five Tests in England over six weeks starting this month; that seems to be roughly the length of time needed. T20 franchise cricket is cutting into cricket's calendar with startling rapidity, with new tournaments in the US and Saudi Arabia to come. Test cricket needs all the help it can get. A five-Test series for its showpiece might be too much to ask for from a purely practical point of view. The game and its players will go where the money does. But surely a three-Test series isn't too much, perhaps one Test at home, one away and the decider (if needed) at a neutral venue?

BENGALURU ROUND UP

Aditya and Sumanth shine

Aditya Mani (3/48 & 110) and S.S. Sumanth (3/48 & 7/34) helped Herons CC defeat The Bangalore Cricketers by an innings and eight runs in the Sri M.A.T Acharya Shield on Tuesday.

The scores:

The Bangalore Cricketers 180 in 57.5 overs (Rahul Kulkarni 27, D. Bharath 30, K.B. Shreyas 33, S.S. Sumanth 3/48, Nithin Naidu 4/39) & 87 in 19.4 overs (K.B. Shreyas 35, Aditya Mani 3/48, S.S. Sumanth 7/34) lost to Herons CC 275 in 51.2 overs (Shivratana 25, Aditya Mani 110 n.o, R. Akshay 3/31, J. Manoj Kumar 5/73).

Jawahar SC (2) 256 in 59.4 overs (Rohith Sundar 103, S.B. Sanket 65, Mitrakant Singh Yadav 5/60, Mohammed Sadiq 3/37) & 79/5 in 10.5 overs (Mohammed Sadiq 3/46) bt Century Cricketers 132 in 43 overs (B. Dheemanth 27, Shimon Luiz 5/44) & 202 in 62.3 overs (Bhuvan M. Raju 63 , B. Dheemanth 80, S.B. Sanket 3/79, Rohith Sundar 3/24).

Chintamani SA 213 in 65.2 overs (Vrishin Arinjai 37, Mir Kaunain Abbas 85, Nathan D'Mello 52, Lavish Kaushal 3/17, N. Samarth 3/55) & 157 in 26.3 overs (Sachin R. Gankal 30, Sachin Shinde 5/17) lost to Vijaya CC 331/8 decl. in 60 overs (A. Yuvraj 28, Swapnil Yelave 158, Nischal Das 41, Sachin Shinde 26, Lavish Kaushal 26, Brijesh B. Gowda 4/77, Nathan D'Mello 3/85).

Modern CC 246 in 75.5 overs (Pratheek 27, Lakshan 26, Premnath Jgode 69, Aaryan Santosh 30, S.A. Sachin 27, Abrar Kazi 4/67, Tejas Angadi 4/49) drew with Wilson Garden CC 225 in 74.4 overs (Raghuveer Rajpurohit 117, Pranesh Desai 4/75, Pranav Aswath 3/58).

Jawahar SC (1) 347/9 in 90 overs (Jayesh Babu 84, Sourab Muttur 103, Vedanth Iyer 57, K.M. Pravesh 31, Arbind Kumar Rai 3/54, S. Amogh 4/129) drew with Jawans CC 481/9 in 90 overs (S.U. Karthik 145, Harshil 64, U. Karan 34, C.M. Gautam 66, C.R. Aiyappa 77 n.o.).

Visweswarapuram CC (1) 183 in 53.5 overs (Diwakar Shankar 45, K. Arun 26, Anupam 33, Sheetal Kumar 6/71, S. Chiranth 3/54) & 158/4 in 32 overs (Virender Singh 44, H. Sarvesh Raju 42) drew with Jupiter CA 301/9 in 74 overs (Harshith Poojary 84, Prajwal Prakash 56, Desmond Antony 43, Mashooq Hussain 43, Sinan Abdul Khader 7/102).

Vetrivel saves Metro the blushes

Vetrivel scored a 50th minute equaliser as Metro HC held Bangalore United HC to a 3-3 draw in the D.S. Murthy Memorial hockey tournament on Tuesday.

The results:

Bangalore United 3 (Maggi 16, Chinappa 25, Avinash Papa 39) drew with Metro 3 (Umesh 1, Kushman Singh 19, Vetrivel 50).

Susmitha scores a brace

P. Susmitha scored a brace as Alchemy International downed FCBU 2-0 in Tuesday's KSFA Women's B-division league match.

The results: Alchemy International 2 (P. Susmitha 36, 48) bt FCBU 0; Kemp FC 2 (Shrujansri Saravanan 47, Anwita Raghuraman 50+1) bt Technico Football Foundation 1 (Athmika George 21).

KSFA Bangalore North & South C-div. league: Snipers 2 (Abhil 21, Sarvan Narayan 39) bt Karnataka United 1 (Sahriddi Vaddi 69).

BDFA C-div.: Bangalore Wanderers 7 (Prajwal Reddy 8, P. Mohit 17-OG, Mani 23, A. Sunil Kumar 30+1, M. David 48, 52, 60) bt Young Blues 0.

Young Gems 4 (Abhisek Chettri 6, Ngamring Kanguinamei 20, Sandeep Gowda 55, Senu Gurung 30) bt Sun Rise 1 (Joshuva 3); Saravagna Nagar 1 (S. Gokulnath 30) bt Hindi Socials 0.